

Polyisoprenoids from *Avicennia marina* and *Avicennia lanata* Inhibit WiDr Cells Proliferation

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: The current investigation was conducted to examine the anticancer effect of polyisoprenoids from *Avicennia marina* and *Avicennia lanata* leaves in WiDr cells. Selectivity index (SI), cell cycle inhibition, and apoptosis activity were evaluated. **Materials and Methods:** The anticancer activity of polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves was determined by observing the activity of these compounds toward WiDr cells using the 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide assay. The SI was determined from the IC₅₀ of the polyisoprenoid extract in normal cells (Vero) versus cancer cells (WiDr). Inhibited cell cycle and increased apoptosis were analyzed by flow cytometry. **Results:** Polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves exhibited anticancer activity against WiDr cells with an IC₅₀ of 154.987 µg/mL and 305.928 µg/mL, respectively. The polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* leaves had an SI value of 5.195 (>3) for categorization as exceptionally selective. Cell cycle analysis revealed that the inhibition occurred in the G0–G1 phase and apoptosis occurred in the early-apoptosis development. **Conclusion:** Polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves can be used as anticancer agents against WiDr colon cancer cells. The mechanisms that underlie anticancer activity of the extract were due to by inhibiting of cell cycle and inducing of apoptosis.

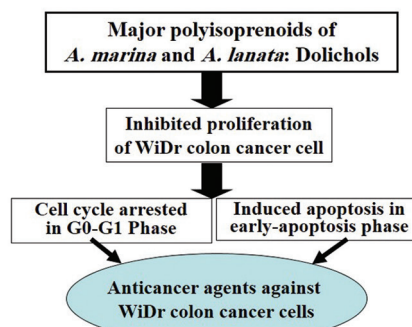
Key words: Apoptosis, *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia lanata*, cell cycle, polyisoprenoids, proliferation in WiDr cells

SUMMARY

- The cytotoxic activity potential of polyisoprenoids from *Avicennia marina* and *Avicennia lanata* leaves is shown by an IC₅₀ of 154.987 µg/mL and 305.928 µg/mL against the WiDr cell line
- The polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* leaves had a selectivity index value of 5.195 (>3) for classification as highly selective
- Polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves inhibit proliferation through the cell cycle stop in the G0–G1 stage and induce apoptosis in the early-apoptotic stage
- Polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves may serve as chemopreventive agents with increased cytotoxic activity against colon cancer cells by inducing apoptosis and inhibiting the cell cycle

- The present study confirmed that polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves promise anticancer agents.

Polyisoprenoid extract (dolichols) from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves exhibited anticancer activity against WiDr cells with an IC₅₀ of 154.987 µg/mL and 305.928 µg/mL, respectively. Cell cycle analysis revealed that the inhibition occurred in the G0–G1 phase, and apoptosis occurred in the early-apoptosis phase. Dolichols from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves serve as anticancer agents against WiDr colon cancer cells.



Abbreviations used: DMSO: Dimethylsulfoxide, MTT: 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, PBS: Phosphate buffer saline, SDS: Sodium dodecyl sulfate.

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INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the second prominent cause of mortality in the world and is conscientious for 8.8 million demises in 2015. Almost one in six deaths globally is caused by cancer. About 70% of cancer deaths occur in countries with low- and middle-economic levels.^[1] Cancer is characterized by unbridled cell growth espoused by the incursion of surrounding tissue and the propagation of malignant cells.^[2,3] Cancer cells are recognized to lose the ability to downregulate the cell cycle, leading to their incessant proliferation.^[4] Apoptosis (program cell death) regulates the normal equilibrium of cellular existence and mortality which involve pro- and anti-apoptosis protein. Overexpression of anti-apoptosis protein in the human cell is linked to cancer development, resistance to treatment, and tumor progression.^[5]

Colorectal cancer cases worldwide are the tertiary supremely prevalent cancer in male (about 746,000 occurrences, 10.0% of total) and second in female (approximately 614,000 occurrences, 9.2% of total). Nearly

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55% of circumstances transpire in developing countries.^[6] In Indonesia, 27,772 incidences of colon cancer were reported and leading to the third most common cancer-causing death.^[7] Incidence and mortality rates due to colon cancer are correlated with western lifestyle adoption, while they are still increasing in many countries with low-to-medium level of social and economic development. The risk factor of colon cancer is also related with healthy nourishment, low fruit and vegetable intake (intakes of low fiber and high fat), tobacco use and alcohol use, elevated body mass index, and drawback of physical activity.^[1,8]

Primary cancer treatments have combined chemotherapy agents and ionizing radiation to remove most of the tumor mass. However, these treatments bring the incidence of cancer relapse and even destroy the healthy cells. The use of conventional anticancer drugs has led to the development of drug resistance towards cancer cells. Therefore, it needs to find the potential drug for anticancer from alternative source including natural product.

Avicennia marina and *Avicennia lanata* belonging to family *Acanthaceae* are known as either the mangrove plants which are considerably distributed in South Asia and Southeast Asia. This plant in many countries has been used as a traditional medicament for the healing of several ailments as well as rheumatism, smallpox, and ulcers.^[9] It has been described that these plants possess various pharmacological activities including cytotoxicity and anticancer.^[10] *A. marina* and *A. lanata* contain high yield of triterpenoid and phytosterol (isoprenoids) compounds.^[11,12] Recently, it has been identified three type of triterpenoids, e.g., lupanes, oleanane, and ursane, as well as polyisoprenoids, which forms these mangrove plants.^[13-15] Polyisoprenoids displayed some biological activities such as lowering cholesterol, anti-inflammation, and antiulcer.^[16,17] However, less information is available about the anticancer activity of polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata*. Hence, the present study purposed to probe its anticancer activity. The activity of this extract on the cell cycle and apoptosis was investigated. The outcomes of this study will help characterize the anticancer properties of polyisoprenoids from *A. marina* and *A. lanata*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant and chemicals materials

Fresh leaves of *A. marina* and *A. lanata* were collected from Lubuk Kertang village, Langkat regency, Sumatera Utara province, Indonesia. *A. marina* and *A. lanata* were identified in Oceanography, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta Utara. Roswell Park Memorial Institute-1640 (RPMI-1640) and M199 were obtained from Gibco (USA), the annexin-V and propidium iodide kits were from BioLegend (USA), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), 3-(4,5-dimethylimidazole-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT), phosphate buffer saline (PBS), and sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) were purchased from Sigma (USA). Chloroform, methanol, hexane, ethanol, HCl, and KOH were obtained from Merck (Germany).

Cell lines and culture medium

Colon cancer cell line (WiDr) and normal cell (Vero) were procured from Paracytology Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Gadjah Mada University, and nurtured in RPMI-1640 and M199 with 10% FBS, antibiotic mixture (penicillin streptomycin 2%) and antifungal (amphotericin B 0.5%) under defined conditions of temperature at 37°C, and 5% CO₂.

Preparation of polyisoprenoid extracts

The procedure for the extraction of polyisoprenoids was performed as beforehand represented.^[15,18,19] The *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves were dried at 60°C–75°C for 1–2 days. The dried leaves were pounded into a

fine powder (500 g) and were submerged in an admixture of chloroform: methanol (2:1, v/v) solvent for 2 days. The total lipid extract of the leaves was saponified at 65°C for 1 day in 86% ethanol comprising 2 M KOH. The nonsaponifiable lipids of leaves were dissolved with hexane, and this organic solvent was dried up and redissolved in hexane.

Cytotoxic activity test

Cytotoxic activity was determined to utilize the MTT method with slight modifications.^[20] Concisely, WiDr cells (1 × 10⁴ cells/well) were cultured and grown in a 96-well microplate and were hatched for 24 h [Figure 1a]. After this step, cells were employed with various concentrations of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves (500, 250, 125, 62.5, and 31.25 µg/mL) and were incubated 37°C in a 5% CO₂ incubator for 24 h [Figure 1b]. Doxorubicin was used as a positive control. DMSO (1%) was used as a cosolvent. After incubation, the culture media and test solutions were disposed, and then, the cells were cleansed with PBS. After that, 100 µL of RPMI and 10 µL of MTT (5 mg/mL) were appended into every well, and the cells were hatched for 4–6 h in a 5% CO₂ incubator at a temperature of 37°C. The MTT reaction was becalmed using a reagent stopper (10% SDS in 0.1 N HCl), and the cells were protected from light at room temperature and allowed to stand for one night. Cell viability was observed using an ELISA reader at a wavelength of 595 nm. Lively cells respond with MTT to form a violaceous color and formazan crystals [Figure 1c]. The percentage viability was calculated utilizing the ensuing formula:^[21]

$$\% \text{Viability (living cells)} = \frac{\text{Abs treatment cells} - \text{Abs media control}}{\text{Abs media control cells} - \text{Abs media control}} \times 100\%$$

Selectivity index

Selectivity index (SI) was determined from the IC₅₀ of polyisoprenoid extract from the leaves of *A. marina* and *A. lanata* in Vero cells versus WiDr cells to exhibit cytotoxic selectivity (i.e. safety) of the polyisoprenoid extract. The SI was performed using the following formula:^[22]

$$\text{SI} = \frac{\text{IC}_{50} \text{ Vero cells}}{\text{IC}_{50} \text{ WiDr cells}}$$

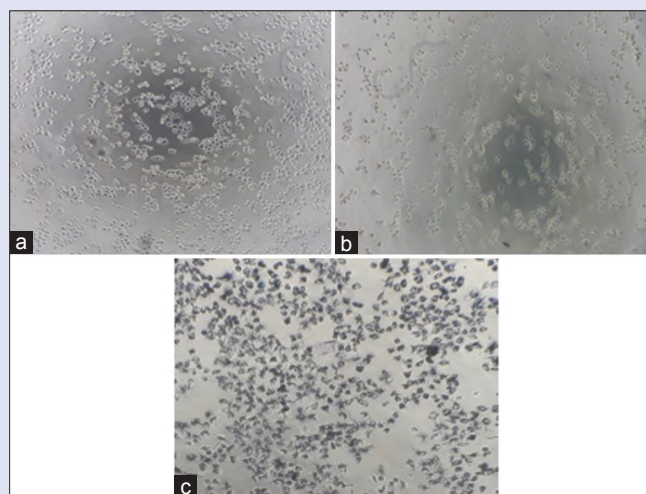


Figure 1: WiDr colon cancer cells treated with polyisoprenoid extract: (a) control, WiDr cells without treatment; (b) WiDr cells treated with polyisoprenoid extract; (c) formazan crystals formed on WiDr cells (Olympus Inverted Microscope, 10 × 40 magnification)

Cell cycle inhibition analysis

Cell cycle inhibition was assessed as delineated beforehand.^[23] Briefly, WiDr cells were plated in a 6-well microplate at a density of 5×10^5 (approximately 500,000) cells/well and then were hatched for overnight to obtain good growth. The next day, the cells were evaluated with various contents of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves (1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 IC_{50} were carried out as previously reported)^[24] and were incubated for 24 h. Doxorubicin was used as a positive control. Subsequent to incubation, the samples were displaced inside 15-mL conical tubes, and the microplates were washed with PBS, which was then collected and added to the same conical tubes. Afterward, 250 μ L of trypsin was appended to the microplates, which were then hatched for 3 min at 37°C. After that, 1 mL of culture media was added to the microplates, and then the media were collected and added to the same conical tubes. Following, 1 mL of PBS was added to the microplates, and then, the PBS washes were collected and added to the same conical tubes, followed by centrifugation at 600 rpm for 5 min and displacement of the liquids. After that, the pellets were redissolved in 1 mL of PBS, followed by transfer to microtubes and centrifugation at 2000 rpm for 3 min. Next, 500 μ L of 70% ethanol was appended and incubated for 30 min. After incubation, the cells were resuspended in propidium iodide. The cell cycle distribution was observed using a flow cytometer (FACSCalibur).

Apoptosis analysis

Apoptosis detection was performed as described previously.^[23] Briefly, WiDr cells were grown in a 6-well microplate at a density of 5×10^5 cells/wells and hatched for 1 day to obtain good growth. The following day, cells were employed with various concentrations of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves (1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 IC_{50}) and incubated for 24 h. Doxorubicin was used as a positive control. Subsequent to incubation, the samples were displaced inside 15-mL conical tubes, the microplates were cleansed with PBS, and then the PBS washes were collected and added to the same conical tubes. Next, 250 μ L of trypsin was appended to the microplates, which were nurtured for 3 min at 37°C. After that, 1 mL of culture media was appended to the microplates, and then, the media were collected and added to the same conical tubes. Next, the cells in the microplates were resuspended in 1 mL PBS; the PBS washes were collected and added to the same conical tubes, followed by centrifugation at 600 rpm for 5 min and removal of the supernatants. The pellets were dissolved in 1 mL of PBS and were displaced inside microtubes and centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 3 min. Next, 100 μ L of annexin-V buffer was added to the cells, partaken by the addition of 5 μ L each of annexin-V and propidium iodide and incubation for 10 min. After preparation, 300 μ L of annexin-V buffer was appended. Apoptosis was observed using a flow cytometer (FACSCalibur).

Statistical analysis

Data were represented as the means \pm standard deviation from at least three separation experimentations. The IC_{50} values were calculated from the linear regression equations of the dose–response curve for each test using probit analysis with SPSS 23 software (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, United States of America).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cytotoxic activity analysis

Cytotoxic activity was carried out using the MTT method by measuring the intensity of the color (colorimetric) due to the metabolism of a substrate by lively cells into a colored product. In the present

Table 1: IC_{50} of polyisoprenoid extract from *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia lanata* and doxorubicin and its selectivity index

	Sample	WiDr cells	Vero cells	SI
IC_{50} (μ g/mL)	<i>A. marina</i>	154.987	805.290	5.195
	<i>A. lanata</i>	305.928	600.604	1.963
	Doxorubicin (positive control)	5.445	75.629	13.889

A. lanata: *Avicennia lanata*; *A. marina:* *Avicennia marina*; SI: Selectivity index

Table 2: Distribution of WiDr cells after treatment with various concentrations of polyisoprenoid extract from *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia lanata* and doxorubicin (1/2, 1/5 and 1/10 IC_{50})

Treatment	Concentration (μ g/mL)	Cell phase (%)		
		G0-G1	S	G2-M
Control	-	69.52	12.81	17.63
<i>A. marina</i> 1/2 IC_{50}	77.493	72.43	11.94	15.60
<i>A. marina</i> 1/5 IC_{50}	30.997	44.26	40.37	15.67
<i>A. marina</i> 1/10 IC_{50}	15.498	67.45	13.80	18.79
<i>A. lanata</i> 1/2 IC_{50}	152.964	70.34	10.27	15.66
<i>A. lanata</i> 1/5 IC_{50}	61.185	66.84	14.05	17.01
<i>A. lanata</i> 1/10 IC_{50}	30.592	70.11	13.47	16.65
Doxorubicin 1/2 IC_{50}	2.722	14.21	52.32	31.18
Doxorubicin 1/5 IC_{50}	1.089	62.87	18.57	17.42
Doxorubicin 1/10 IC_{50}	0.544	61.91	21.66	16.34

A. lanata: *Avicennia lanata*; *A. marina:* *Avicennia marina*

investigation, the MTT salt was used. This salt was involved in the action of the enzyme dehydrogenase. MTT is decreased to formazan by succinate-tetrazolium reduction system present in cell respiration pathways in the mitochondria active in living cells.^[20]

What the viability effect of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves against WiDr cells was exhibited in a dose-dependent manner in which a low content of extract (31.25 μ g/mL) generated in a high percentage of viability (80.020% and 93.597%). Conversely, the highest level (500 μ g/mL) revealed a low rate of sustainability (4.123% and 15.428%). As shown in Table 1, the IC_{50} value of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves was 154.987 and 305.928 μ g/mL, respectively, which is lower than that of doxorubicin (5.445 μ g/mL).

The results indicate that the polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves was less active as an anticancer agent because the extract is considered active if $IC_{50} \leq 100$ μ g/mL.^[25,26] However, it could still be developed as an anticancer agent because it is deemed to be inactive if $IC_{50} > 500$ μ g/mL.^[27] It has been previously reported that the methanol and aqueous extracts from *A. marina* have cytotoxicity effects on HL-60 and NCI-H23 cells with efficient IC_{50} values and negligible toxicity effects on normal cells (HEK-293T).^[28] A study by Reddy and Ratna demonstrated that the methanolic part of *A. marina* leaves showed antiproliferative activity against MCF-7 cell line in a dose-dependent manner.^[29]

Selectivity index

SI was determined using the formula as described previously.^[22] As shown in Table 1, the IC_{50} value of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves against Vero cells was 805.290 μ g/mL and 600.604 μ g/mL. Based on the IC_{50} Vero cells versus cancer cells (WiDr cells), SI of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves was 5.195 and 1.963, respectively. The polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* leaves had an SI value with the highly particular classification of > 3 .^[22,27]

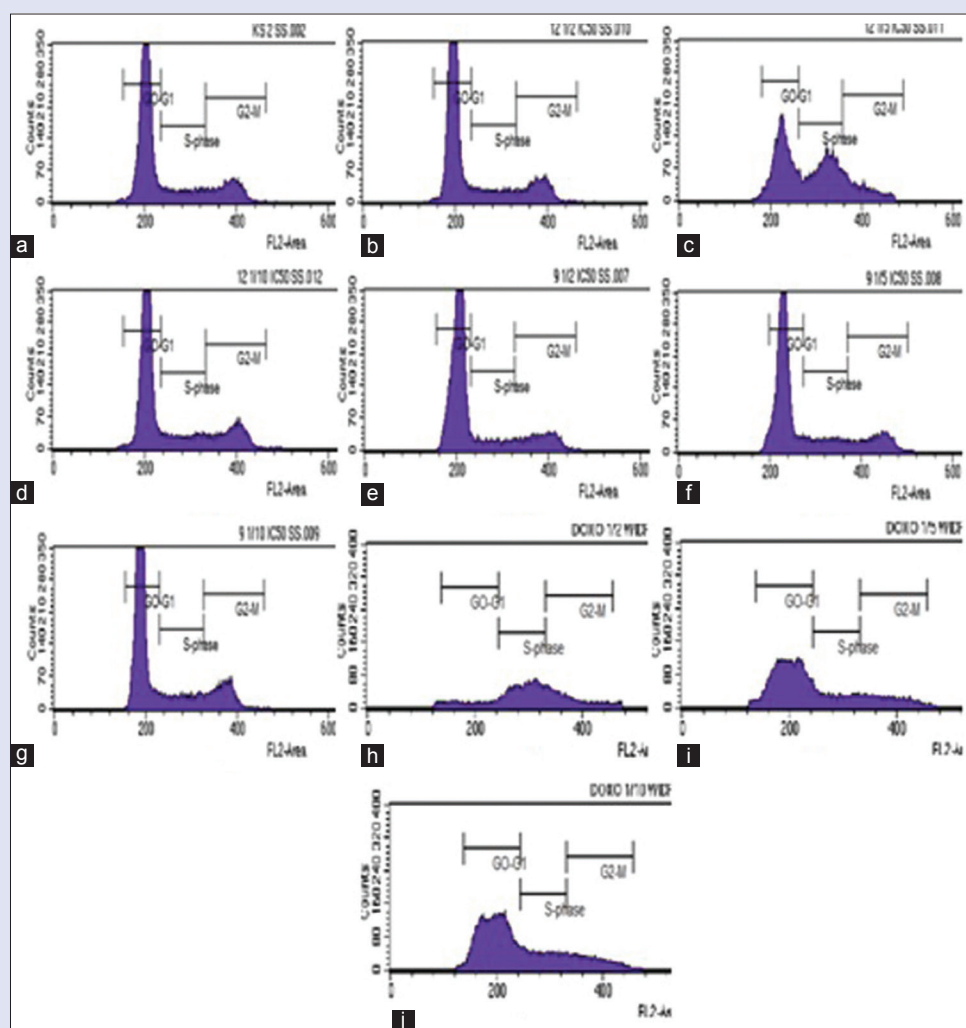


Figure 2: Results of cell cycle analysis in WiDr cells after treatment with various concentrations of polyisoprenoid extract from AM, AL, and doxorubicin (1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 IC_{50}): (a) control; (b) AM, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (c) AM, 1/5 IC_{50} ; (d) AM, 1/10 IC_{50} ; (e) AL, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (f) AL, 1/5 IC_{50} ; (g) AL, 1/10 IC_{50} ; (h) doxorubicin, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (i) doxorubicin, 1/5 IC_{50} ; and (j) doxorubicin, 1/10 IC_{50} . A. *lanata*: *Avicennia lanata*; A. *marina*: *Avicennia marina*

Cell cycle inhibition analysis

The activity of polyisoprenoid extract on the cell cycle of WiDr cells was analyzed using flow cytometry. Cessation of the cell cycle at the G0–G1 phase allows the promotion of apoptosis. Discontinuation of the cell cycle in the G1 phase will provide an opportunity to the damaged cells to be recognized and continue the process of apoptosis.^[30] The DNA content inside of the cell was distributed as the G0/G1, S, or G2/M phase of the cell cycle. As shown in Figure 2, the percentages of G0–G1 stage profiles for WiDr cells treated with polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves at 1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 IC_{50} were 72.43%, 44.26%, 67.45% and 70.34%, 66.84%, 70.11%, respectively. The accumulation rates of cells in S phase after treatment with each concentration of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves were 11.94%, 40.37%, 13.80% and 10.27%, 14.05%, 13.47%, respectively. Meanwhile, the percentages of G2–M phase profiles for WiDr cells treated with polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves at 1/2, 1/5, 1/10 IC_{50} were 15.60%, 15.67%, 18.79% and 15.66%, 17.01%, 16.65%, respectively. The percentages of control cells (as shown in Table 2) in G0–G1 phase, S phase, and G2–M phase were 69.52%, 12.81% and 17.63%, respectively. These results indicated that polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves constrained the growth of cells in the G0–G1 phase.

Polyisoprenoid is abundantly found in mangrove species.^[13–15] The previous study has reported that mangrove species, i.e., *Lumnitzera racemosa*, had an effective cytotoxic activity toward HL-60 leukemia cell lines.^[31] It has known that carotenoid is a class of compound with polyisoprenoid structure. According to the previous report, this compound was capable of inducing cell cycle arrest of adenocarcinoma colon cells (COLO 320 h, WiDr, and LS174 cell lines).^[32,33] Besides, carotenoids have shown the influence of arresting cell cycle of HL-60 leukemia cells in the G1 phase as well as terminating the cell cycle in different stages and inducing apoptosis of MCF-7 cell lines.^[33,34]

Apoptosis analysis

Flow cytometry was performed to determine whether treated cells were undergoing apoptosis following cell cycle arrest. This method was used to calculate viable, necrotic, and apoptotic cells rapidly. During apoptosis, phosphatidylserine (PS) becomes exposed on the outer cell membrane, and annexin-V will specifically bind to PS. DNA in ruined cells from the necrotic and apoptosis phase can be stained by propidium iodide, which generates orange to gules fluorescence. As it traverses the laser beam, the cells are inspired and dissipate light to yield fluorescence.^[35,36]

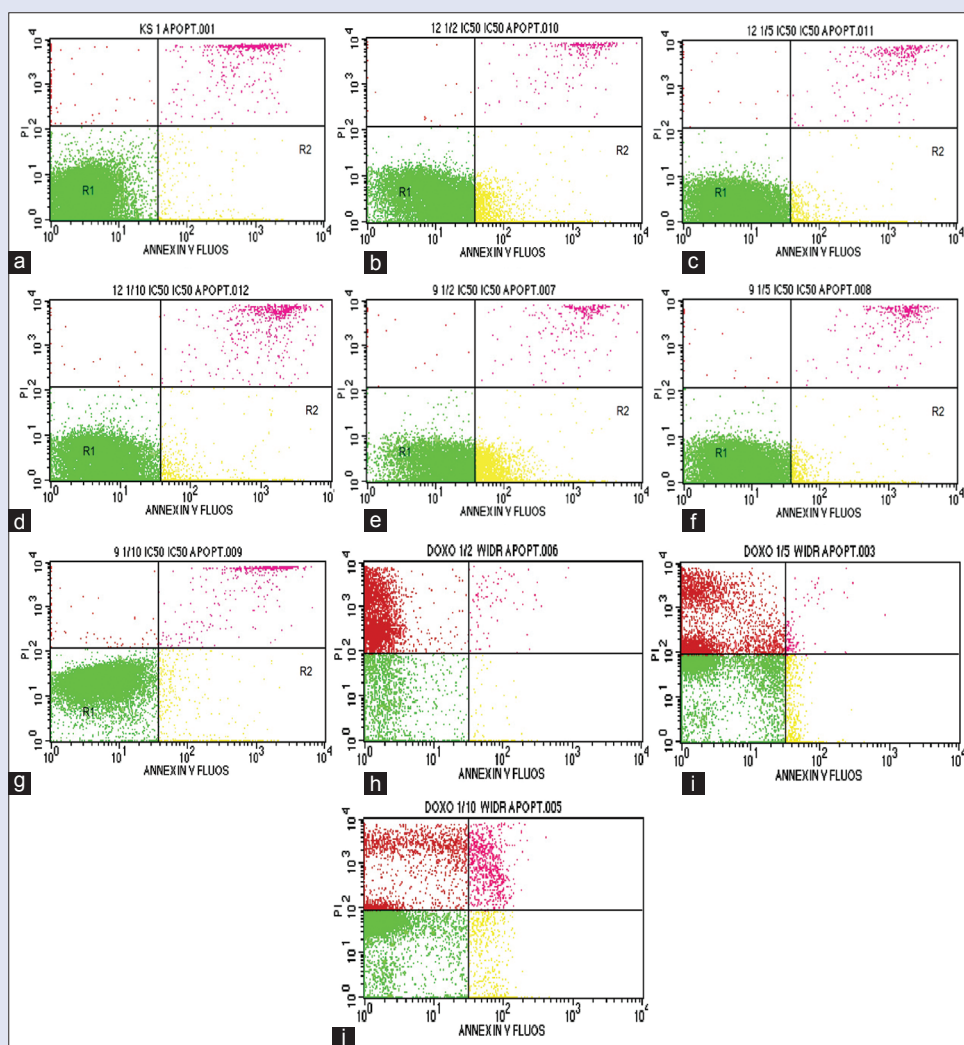


Figure 3: Results of apoptosis analysis in WiDr cells after treatment with various concentration of polyisoprenoid extract from AM, AL, and doxorubicin (1/2, 1/5, and 1/10 IC_{50}): (a) control; (b) AM, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (c) AM, 1/5 IC_{50} ; (d) AM, 1/10 IC_{50} ; (e) AL, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (f) AL, 1/5 IC_{50} ; (g) AL, 1/10 IC_{50} ; (h) doxorubicin, 1/2 IC_{50} ; (i) doxorubicin, 1/5 IC_{50} ; and (j) doxorubicin, 1/10 IC_{50} . A. *lanata*: *Avicennia lanata*; A. *marina*: *Avicennia marina*

As presented in Figure 3, the percentage values of cells undergoing early apoptosis (R2) after treatment with the polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves at 1/2, 1/5, 1/10 IC_{50} were 12.85%, 4.83%, 4.75% and 31.77%, 5.80%, 2.02%, respectively. In contrast, the proportion values of cells undergoing late apoptosis/early necrosis (R3) and late necrosis (R4) after treatment with each concentration of polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves were 1.24%, 1.38%, 2.92% and 1.27%, 1.60%, 2.62% and 0.09%, 0.11%, 0.11% and 0.10%, 0.12%, 0.36%, respectively. The polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* and *A. lanata* leaves demonstrated positive activity in apoptosis using annexin-V. According to the previous study, a fraction of *A. marina* was found killed MDA-MB 231 breast cancer cells through apoptosis mechanism via p53 and Bcl-2 genes, which induces to leading DNA fragmentation.^[37]

The principle of annexin-V labeling is the staining of PS on the outer cell membrane. Early apoptosis cells express PS on the external plasma membrane. PS can be dyed by annexin-V labeling. Cells are subjected to late apoptosis and necrosis will bereave the integrity of the cell membrane and become permeable to an annexin-V dye.^[38]

The mechanism of action of the extract in inducing apoptosis might occur in the early-apoptosis phase. The presence of several compounds,

including isoprene, was probably responsible for the activity. It was reported that steroid and triterpenoid have anticancer activity by blocking nuclear factor-kappa B, inducing apoptosis, activating transcription, and activating angiogenesis.^[39,40]

CONCLUSION

Polyisoprenoid extracts from the leaves of *A. marina* and *A. lanata* exhibited anticancer activity against WiDr colon cancer cells. The polyisoprenoid extract from *A. marina* leaves had a SI value of 5.195 (>3) for classification as highly selective. This extract had a mechanism of inhibition of cell cycle at the G0–G1 stage, and apoptosis analysis occurred in the early-apoptosis phase in WiDr cells. This finding might emphasize the potency of polyisoprenoid extract as an anticancer agent against WiDr colon cancer cells. Nevertheless, a farther inquiry is still required to define the detailed mechanism of the anticancer activity of polyisoprenoid extract.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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