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Combined use of Ganoderma lucidum ReishiMax and tea polyphenols Tegreen inhibits tumor growth synergistically in cancer-bearing mice

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ABSTRACT

Ganoderma lucidum (Reishi) and green tea are commonly used in China for cancer prevention and adjuvant therapy. A screening revealed superior anti-malignancy activities of ReishiMax (RM) among commercial Reishi products (JACM 9:491, 2003). Synergy of RM and Tegreen (TG; containing >98% tea polyphenols) was found in anti-cancer in human breast and prostate cancer cells (Int'l J Oncol 30:963, 2007). Further screening showed that fucose-containing polysaccharides are highly enriched in RM (0.34%), the class of polysaccharides demonstrating high immune enhancing activities (Bioorg Med Chem 10:1050, 2002). They are much less (0.04 – 0.20%) in other Reishi products. In addition to the survival studies in cancer mice (FASEB J 21:A1100, 2007), we tested synergy of RM and TG in inhibiting tumor growth in sarcoma-bearing mice. After 28-day treatment, RM+TG significantly decreased tumor weight by 45% in S180-innoculated mice, compared to controls ($p < 0.05$). The data further confirmed the previous finding of synergy of RM and TG in anti-malignancy, indicating their therapeutic values in cancer prevention and adjuvant treatment.

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