

Indium(III) complexes with 8-hydroxyquinoline derivatives and 1,10-phenanthroline: cytotoxic effects on HCT-116 colorectal cancer cells

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Although radioactive $^{111}\text{In(III)}$ compounds have been extensively investigated for the labeling of cells in the detection and diagnosis of infections and inflammation, the pharmacological applications of non-radioactive indium(III) complexes remain so far almost unexplored [1]. Indium(III) complexes have shown antimicrobial [2] and antitumor [3] activities. Metal complexes with 8-hydroxyquinoline (8HQ) have been reported to possess antibacterial [4] and antitumoral [5] effects. Some ligands such as 1,10-phenanthroline (phen) might interact with DNA by intercalation [6]. The attachment of these organic intercalators to metal coordination complexes, yielding metallo-intercalators, can lead to novel DNA interactions that influence anticancer activity [7]. Therefore, metal complexes with 1,10-phenanthroline as ancillary ligand might be a strategy for designing new anticancer metal compounds with intercalating properties. The present work involves indium(III) complexes containing 5-chloro-7-iodo-8-quinolinol (clioquinol) or 5,7-dichloro-8-hydroxy-2-methylquinoline and 1,10-phenanthroline, complexes (1) and (2) (Figure 1). The complexes were already synthesized and fully characterized and are presently being assayed for their cytotoxic activities against a panel of tumor and non-malignant cells. Preliminary results of % cell growing inhibition indicated that the complexes show cytotoxic activity against HCT-116 colorectal tumor cells. The tests are presently ongoing to determine IC_{50} values and the selectivity indexes.

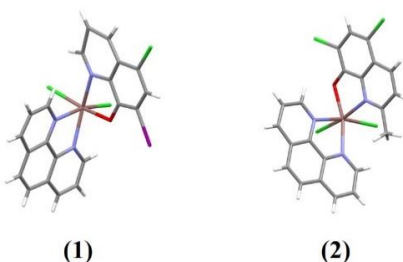


Figure 1. Indium(III) complexes (1) and (2).

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