Effect of Pfaffia paniculata (Brazilian ginseng) on the Ehrlich tumor in its ascitic form.
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Abstract
The roots of Pfaffia paniculata (Brazilian ginseng) have been indicated for the treatment of several diseases, among which the cancer. The purpose of this study was to investigate experimentally the possible antineoplastic effect of this root. Firstly, a toxicity study was performed in which the doses of 400 and 200 mg/Kg of the powdered root were administered by gavage for 10 days to BALB/cICB mice. The mice did not lose weight during the treatment. No increase in serum alanine-aminotransferase neither histopathological alteration (liver, kidney and spleen) was observed in mice treated with P. paniculata. The effect of this root on the ascitic Ehrlich tumor in BALB/cICB mice was then investigated. Male mice received, by gavage, once a day, 200 mg/Kg of the powdered root of P. paniculata or distilled water, as control, for 20 days. This protocol started 10 days before tumor inoculation with $5 \times 10^6$ cells i.p., and lasted until 10 days after. The ascitic tumor was evaluated by the quantification of the volume of the ascitic fluid, relative number of tumor cells and total number of tumor cells. A decrease in the total ascitic volume was observed in P. paniculata treated mice, that was followed by a numerical decrease in the total number of Ehrlich tumor cells. These results may indicate that P. paniculata anti-inflammatory effects were responsible by the decrease in the total ascitic fluid. In addition, the presence of tumor-cell inhibitory factors in P. paniculata roots is in agreement with other in vitro studies. The mechanisms of such tumor inhibition should be further investigated.

Antineoplastic effects of butanolic residue of Pfaffia paniculata.
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Abstract
We have previously reported a reduction in the accumulation of ascitic fluid in Ehrlich tumor-bearing mice following treatment with the powdered roots of Pfaffia paniculata. The aim of this study was to investigate which extracts from these roots presented antineoplastic properties. Thus, the effects of the ethanolic extract, butanolic residue, or aqueous residue from Pfaffia paniculata on animal survival and tumor growth in mice bearing this tumor were studied. Butanolic residue-treated mice survived longer than untreated mice. This result points to an antineoplastic effect exerted by the butanolic fraction from the roots of P. paniculata on this tumor model.

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