

Descoberto em 1995 o efeito do ácido betulínico no tratamento do melanoma: aumento da apoptose

Discovery of betulinic acid as a selective inhibitor of human melanoma that functions by induction of apoptosis.

[Pisha E](#), [Chai H](#), [Lee IS](#), [Chagwedera TE](#), [Farnsworth NR](#), [Cordell GA](#), [Beecher CW](#), [Fong HH](#), [Kinghorn AD](#), [Brown DM](#)

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Source

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Abstract

As a result of bioassay-guided fractionation, betulinic acid, a pentacyclic triterpene, was identified as a melanoma-specific cytotoxic agent. In follow-up studies conducted with athymic mice carrying human melanomas, tumour growth was completely inhibited without toxicity. As judged by a variety of cellular responses, antitumour activity was mediated by the induction of apoptosis. Betulinic acid is inexpensive and available in abundant supply from common natural sources, notably the bark of white birch trees. The compound is currently undergoing preclinical development for the treatment or prevention of malignant melanoma.

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