

# CELL SIGNALING AND CANCER THERAPY & CELL METABOLISM AND CYTOPATHOLOGY

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## The Effect of Baicalein on Wnt/ $\beta$ -Catenin pathway and MiR-25 expression in Saos-2 Osteosarcoma Cell Line

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Osteosarcoma is the most common primary bone malignancy which occurs frequently in children and adolescents. The flavonoid baicalein, shows a wide range of biological and pharmaceutical effects, with its potent antitumor activity raising great interest in recent years. MicroRNAs are emerging as a class of small regulatory RNAs whose alterations are implicated in the initiation and progression of human cancers. MicroRNA-25 (miR-25) has recently been found to be involved in many critical processes in human cancers. In this study, the effect of baicalein and miR-25 on Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathway in osteosarcoma cell line Saos-2 was investigated. Cell viability and apoptosis was assessed, mRNA and protein expressions of  $\beta$ -catenin, GSK-3 $\beta$ , Axin2 and LRP-5, which are associated with the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathway, were determined. In Saos-2 cells, baicalein IC<sub>50</sub> and AP<sub>50</sub> values were found to be 35  $\mu$ M ve 50  $\mu$ M, respectively. It is indicated that baicalein can inhibit the proliferation and induce apoptosis and also increase miR-25 expression of Saos-2 cells in a dose-dependent manner. Baicalein treatment and miR-25 mimic transfection decreased the expression of  $\beta$ -catenin, Axin2 and LRP-5, while increasing the expression of GSK-3 $\beta$ . Anti-miR-25 treatment decreased the expression of GSK-3 $\beta$  and LRP-5, while  $\beta$ -catenin and Axin2 expression increased. These findings demonstrate that baicalein may target genes related to the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway by regulating miR-25 expression and may be a potential Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway inhibitor for osteosarcoma therapy.

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