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Abstract
Mushrooms have been widely used to prevent and cure diseases for thousand years. The fruit bodies of “niu-chang chih” (Antrodia camphorata) are believed to have certain medical effects in Taiwanese folk medicine, especially for hepatoprotection.
In this study, the inhibitory effect of Antrodia camphorata on hepatoma cell lines growth (such as Hep 3B, Hep G2 and Alexander cells) was conducted by MTT assay. To evaluate whether there is the hepatoprotective ability of Antrodia camphorata, the rodent model of liver fibrosis, induced by thioacetamide (TAA), has also been set up. The collected livers were stained with Masson trichrome in order to evaluate the degree of liver fibrosis. Furthermore, anti-HBsAg assay was used to investigate the hepatoprotective effect of Antrodia camphorata in reducing the secretion of HBsAg on Alexander cells.
The results demonstrated that there were significantly inhibitory effects of water extract or alcohol extract of mycelium from Antrodia camphorata on Hep 3B, Hep G2 and Alexander cells growth, and the inhibitory rate were 76, 77 and 68% respectively. After twelve week’s TAA-induced, serious liver fibrosis or liver cirrhosis rats have been successfully set up, and the water extract of mycelium from Antrodia camphorata can reduce the liver damage by treated with TAA. Moreover, the secretion of HBsAg on Alexander cells was also significantly inhibited by the water extract of Antrodia camphorata.
These results suggest that water extract of mycelium from Antrodia camphorata has hepatoprotective ability. The results derived from this study offer some information in alternative medicine.
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