

## ISONIAZID-BASED SCHIFF'S BASES IN BONE CANCER STUDIES USING MG-63 CELL LINES

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Anticancer activities of Schiff bases S1 and S2 against MG-63 human osteosarcoma cells were performed and described using an *in vitro* evaluation employing cytotoxicity and apoptosis assay.

**Methods:** MG-63 cells were used in an MTT assay to examine the effect of the compound on cell viability (S1 and S2). Cell morphologies and IC50 values were obtained. The acridine orange (AO)/ethidium bromide (EB) dual staining technique was used to determine the apoptosis process.

**Results:** Our findings showed that synthesised S1 and S2 reduced MG-63 cell proliferation and induced apoptosis in a dose-dependent manner, implying that they could be used to treat bone cancer.

**Conclusion:** Our findings showed that synthesised S1 and S2 reduced MG-63 cell proliferation and induced apoptosis in a dose-dependent manner, implying that they could be used to treat bone cancer.

**Keywords:** Isoniazid, Inhibitory zone, MG63 cell lines, Carcinoma, Osteosarcoma cells, Cytotoxicity, Apoptosis assay, Dual staining

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### INTRODUCTION

Cancer, one of the complex diseases, thrives in a heterogeneous and adaptive environment [1-10]. Bones are affected as a common consequence in metastatic cancer patients with multiple myeloma, breast, prostate, primary colon, lung, and kidney tumors [11, 12]. Ewing sarcoma (ES), Osteosarcoma (OS), and chondrosarcoma (CS) are the most prevalent primary malignant bone tumors, accounting for over 70% of all malignancies [13]. Out of the above three, osteosarcoma is a type of cancer that is more common in children and adults, with the lungs being the most common site of metastasis in more than 80% of patients [10, 14, 15]. The annual incidence of osteosarcoma is 2-3 million/year in the general population, but in adolescence, it is higher, where it shows 8-11 million/year at later adolescent age (15-19 y) and affects with 15% of all solid extracranial malignancies in this age group. Males are 1.4 times more likely than females to be impacted [16, 17]. Patients with osteosarcoma who undergo surgical treatment have a long-term survival rate of 20-30 percent [18]. Moreover, osteosarcoma is a highly metastatic, aggressive, and lytic tumor that frequently metastasizes to the human lung [19]. The presence of malignant mesenchymal cells creating osteoid and/or immature bone characterizes osteosarcoma, the most common primary solid cancer of bone [20-22]. Even though adjuvant chemotherapy has improved the treatment of osteosarcoma to some extent, it remained virtually unchanged over the last thirty years, probably because of chemotherapeutic resistance [23]. Hence new osteosarcoma treatment techniques are desperately needed.

The Schiff base reaction occurs when aldehydes (or ketones) combine with amino acids, forming imine groups (C=N). Schiff bases of heterocyclic aldehydes and amino acids containing nitrogen, oxygen, and sulphur atoms are a class of compounds that exhibit significant biological activity [24], including antiviral [25], antifungal [26], antioxidant [27], anti-inflammatory [28], antitumor [29, 30], anticancer [31, 32], antibacterial [33, 34], and antipyretic applications [11, 35]. Several biological activities such as cytotoxicity studies, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-tuberculosis, DNA binding, antioxidant, scavenging, and antiviral activities have been performed [36] using isoniazid Schiff bases. Isoniazid Schiff bases, formed by the reaction of Isonicotinohydrazide and a corresponding heterocyclic carbaldehyde, have a pyridine ring and a hydrazide

group, which contains the characteristic HC=N-NH-C=O group. This group leads to intermolecular and intramolecular hydrogen bonding, which increases greater biological activities because of strong interactions with the binding sites of the target tumor cells [37]. Indeed, isoniazid derivatives were subjected to extensive research in tuberculosis treatment in recent decades [38, 39]. But this drug was rarely investigated in the field of cancer treatment [37, 40, 41].

Berkesi *et al.* studied some Schiff bases and found that (E)-2-hydroxy Benzaldehyde-N-phenyl imine and (E)-Benzaldehyde-N-2-hydroxy phenyl imine exhibited intramolecular hydrogen bonding in solid-state as well as in solution and thereby decided the geometry [42]. Yong *et al.* studied anti-bacterial activities for a few selected bacterial strains for different isoniazid Schiff base derivatives and found that the Schiff base derivative in which the carbaldehyde group was present in the ortho position to a heterocyclic ring was more active than others [43]. Rodrigues *et al.* studied the cytotoxicity activity of some isoniazid derivatives against human ovary, glioblastoma and colon cancer cells [44]. They found that the presence of hydroxyl group on the aldehyde containing ring exhibited a significant role in the anticancer activities of a series of isoniazid derivatives, especially when it was located in ortho-position. Generally, anticancer studies are conducted using cancer cell lines which leads to apoptosis, a programmed cell death.

Apoptosis a form of genetically controlled programmed cell death that regulates the evolution of multicellular organisms and tissues by removing physiologically redundant, physically damaged, and defective cells [45]. Under a fluorescent microscope, dual acridine orange (AO)/ethidium bromide (EB) fluorescence labelling may be used to study membrane changes linked with apoptosis [5, 46]. Additionally, this approach is capable of properly identifying cells at various phases of apoptosis [47-49]. A number of isonicotinoyl hydrazones were tested for their cytotoxicity against A549 human lung cancer cells [50], as well as the manner of cell death, which was shown to be apoptotic using several staining methods [1].

In this work, we synthesized isoniazid-based cation receptor Schiff bases (E)-N'-((1H-Pyrrol-2-yl) methylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S1) and (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-yl-methylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2) supported heterocyclic derivatives by mechanical grinding followed by condensation reaction between their corresponding heterocyclic

aldehydes. Their structures were established by  $^1\text{H}$ NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, and FT-IR. As these are active against bone cancer, MTT assay was done and IC50 values were procured and cell morphologies were identified. AO/EB dual staining was done by which apoptosis of cells were identified under fluorescent microscope with specified magnifications. The synthesized drugs were cheaper in cost and helps in apoptosis of bone cancer cells [2].

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

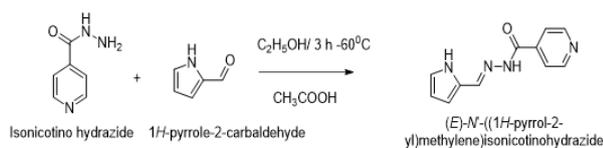
### Materials

All the solvents and chemicals used in the present work were of analytical (AR or GR) grade (Sigma Aldrich) and used without any further purification. Isoniazid, pyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde, thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde, acetic acid, acridine orange (AO), ethidium bromide (EB), 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT), DMSO, PBS (1%), Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Media (DMEM), 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum), Penicillin, streptomycin.

### Methods

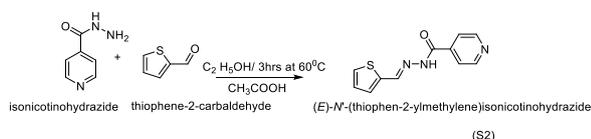
Synthesis of (E)-N'-((1H-Pyrrol-2-yl) methylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S1):

Receptor S1 was synthesized in a single step by the condensation reaction of equimolar amounts of isoniazid (5 mmol=686 mg) and pyrrole-2-carboxaldehyde (5 mmol=475 mg) with 10 ml of ethanol in presence of 1-2 drops of acetic acid and is heated at 60 °C for 3 h. Re-crystallisation is done with ethanol. Further purification is checked with the TLC technique. The receptor (S1) formed is amorphous powder, which is yellow in color. Its melting point is 217-219 °C.



### Synthesis of (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2)

Receptor S2 was synthesized in a single step by the condensation reaction of equimolar amounts of isoniazid (5 mmol=686 mg) and Thiophene-2-carboxaldehyde (5 mmol=617 mg) with 10 ml of ethanol in the presence of 1-2 drops of glacial acetic acid and is heated at 60 °C for 3 h. Re-crystallisation is done with ethanol. Further purification is checked with the TLC technique. The receptor (S2) formed is amorphous powder, which is light yellow in color. Its melting point is 256-257 °C.



### Anti-cancer activity

From the cell repository of the National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune, India, human cell lines were procured. For maintaining the cell line, we utilized Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Media (DMEM)(Christiya *et al.*, 2021), which was provided with 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum). To prevent the medium from bacterial contamination penicillin (100U/ml) and streptomycin (100µg/ml) were added and a humidified environment with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C was maintained.

### Cell cytotoxicity (MTT assay)

The cytotoxicity of S1 and S2 on MG-63 cells was determined by the method of Mosmann [51]. In cell viability assay, MG-63 visible cells were harvested and were counted using a hemocytometer and diluted in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Media (DMEM) to a density of  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/ml and were seeded in 96 well plates for every well and allowed for attachment. After 24h of incubation, it had been treated with control and with S1 and S2 at various concentrations (5, 10, 15,

20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 µg/well), which are incubated at 37 °C during a humidified 95% air and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for twenty-four hours. After incubation, the drug-containing cells were washed with a fresh culture medium, and each well was incubated for an additional 4 h at 37 °C with 5 mg/ml MTT in PBS. MTT (bromide of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium) is reduced in living cells by mitochondrial dehydrogenase, generating a purple colour that may be seen. In live cells, NAD (P) H-dependent reductase transforms the MTT reagent into the purple-colored formazan [3]. The precipitate was dissolved in 100 ml DMSO, and cell viability was followed at 540 nm with a multi-well plate reader. The results were expressed as a percentage of stable cells relative to the control group. The half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC-50) values were estimated, and optimum doses were then determined at different base amounts [34].

$$\text{Inhibitory of cell proliferation (\%)} = \frac{\text{Mean absorbance of the control} - \text{Mean absorbance of the sample} \times 10}{\text{Mean absorbance of the control}}$$

The IC50 values were obtained using the S1 and S2 dose-response curves, which demonstrated a 50% suppression of cytotoxicity relative to vehicle control cells. All experiments have been repeated a minimum of three times [3].

Dual labelling with acridine orange and ethidium bromide (AO/EB) to quantify apoptotic induction: The microscopic fluorescence study of apoptotic necrobiosis was performed in accordance with Baskic *et al.* approach [51].

In a very 6 well plate  $5 \times 10^4$  cells/well of MG-63 cells were seeded and incubated for 24 h. After 24 h of S1 and S2 treatment, the cells were detached, washed with cold PBS, and stained for 5 min at room temperature with a combination of AO (100g ml<sup>-1</sup>) and EB (100g ml<sup>-1</sup>) (1:1). At magnifications of 40x and 20x, the stained cells were examined using a fluorescence microscope (S1 and S2). At the conclusion of the treatment, the cells were collected and washed three times with PBS. After 5 min of staining with acridine orange/ethidium bromide (AO/EB 1:1 ratio; 100g/ml), the plates were immediately inspected at magnifications of 40x (S1) and 20x (S2) using a fluorescence microscope (S2). The number of apoptotic cells was estimated as a function of the total number of cells in the field [58].

## RESULTS

### For (E)-N'-((1H-Pyrrol-2-yl) methylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S1)

#### Fourier transformation Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

IR spectra was taken using Agilent Resolutons Pro. The complex indicated bands due to  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  stretching of amide at 1756  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{N-H}$  stretching of secondary amide at 3210  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{N-H}$  stretching of secondary amine at 3449  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , aromatic CH stretching at 3064  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  stretching of aromatic ring at 1605  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1494  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1442  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 912  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  to 686  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  due to CH-bend of aromatic ring,  $\text{SP}^2\text{-CH}$  stretch at 3140  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $\text{C}=\text{N}$  stretch at 1642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data of the ligand S1 is matching with the literature reports.

$^{13}\text{C}$ : The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of the complex were recorded using DMSO as an internal standard. Signals received at 162.2, 150.2, 141.4, 140.0, 127.2, 122.8, 121.7, 114.8, 109.6.

### For (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2)

#### Fourier Transformation Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR):

IR spectra was obtained using Agilent Resolutions Pro. The complex indicated bands due to  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  stretching at 1659  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and  $\text{N-H}$  stretch of amide at 3203  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , C-H stretch of aromatic at 3021  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  stretch of aromatic ring at 1575  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1412  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , C-H bending of aromatic at 846, mono substituted aromatic ring at 748  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 680  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{C}-\text{N}$  stretch at 1042  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1154  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , 1292  $\text{cm}^{-1}$

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data of the ligand S2 is matching with the literature.

$^{13}\text{C}$ : The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of the complex were recorded using DMSO as an internal standard. It indicated signals at 161.9, 150.8, 144.6, 140.9, 139.3, 131.9, 129.8, 128.4, 122.0.

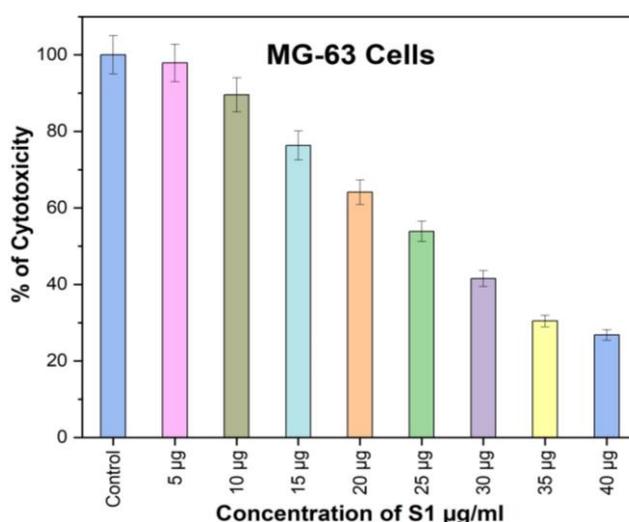
**Cell Cytotoxicity: (MTT assay)**

The MG-63 cell viability with various concentrations of S1 and S2 were tabulated in table 1 and 2. A plot was drawn between the calculated % of cell cytotoxicity or viability against the different concentrations of

S1/S2, and half-maximal inhibitory concentration (IC-50) was noted (fig. 1 and 2). The fluorescent microscope was used to investigate the vitality and cytological features of MG-63 cells (fig. 1). Increased S1 and S2 concentrations drastically reduced the number of viable osteosarcoma cells and disrupted their structure [3, 6].

**Table 1: MTT assay–bone cancer MG63 cells of (E)-N'-((1H-Pyrrol-2-yl) methylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S1)**

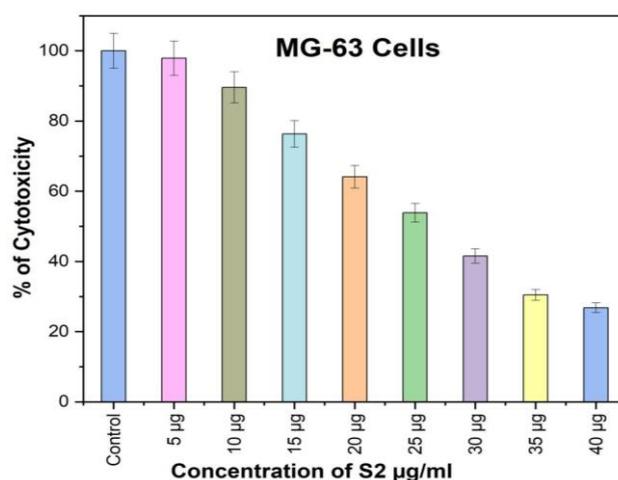
MTT assay									
Conc	Control	5 µg	10 µg	15 µg	20 µg	25 µg	30 µg	35 µg	40 µg
Mean	109	106.66	97.61	83.17	69.87	58.71	45.27	33.2	29.2
	91	89.04	81.49	69.43	58.33	49.01	37.79	27.72	24.38
	100.1	97.95	89.64	76.38	64.16	53.91	41.57	30.49	26.82
Avg	100.03	97.88	89.58	76.32	64.12	53.87	41.54	30.47	26.8
SD	9.00	8.81	8.06	6.87	5.77	4.85	3.74	2.74	2.41



**Fig. 1: Effect of compounds on cell viability determined by MTT-assay with MG-63 cells with increasing concentrations (5-40 µg/ml) of compound S1**

**Table 2: MTT assay–bone cancer MG63 cells of (E)-N'-((thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2)**

MTT assay									
Conc	Control	5 µg	10 µg	15 µg	20 µg	25 µg	30 µg	35 µg	40 µg
Mean	100	94.11	86.23	79.31	69.36	69.74	57.81	44.83	38.71
	100	93.27	81.09	72.91	70.03	59.59	51.73	47.23	31.82
	99.9	97.32	87.53	81.38	75.09	61.37	59.08	41.08	33.09
Avg	99.96	94.83	83.23	78.31	71.49	63.56	56.20	44.38	34.54
SD	0.05	2.13	2.91	3.61	2.55	4.42	3.20	2.53	2.99



**Fig. 2: Effect of compounds on cell viability determined by MTT assay with MG-63 cells with increasing concentrations (5-40 µg/ml) of compound S2**

From the MTT assay by the values obtained from table 1, by plotting a graph between an increase in concentrations on the X-axis and (avg) percent of cytotoxicity on the Y-axis, it was determined that cell viability decreased significantly to 98%, 89%, 76%, 64%, and 54% when cells were exposed to MG-63 at concentrations of 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , respectively [56]. 50% viable cells were observed at 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  on MG-63 cells after 24 h. S1's IC50 value was determined to be 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  based on this finding. MG-63 cell viability decreased drastically in a concentration-dependent manner, with an IC50 of 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  (the concentration that inhibits growth by 50 percent [3] (fig. 1). Cells exceeding 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  are completely destroyed (p0.05). In cells treated with a 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  concentration of S1, a change in cell shape was seen along with a drop in cell quantity [7].

On the other hand, based on the MTT assay results from table 2, plotting a graph between the increase in concentrations on the X-axis and the (avg) percentage of cytotoxicity on the Y-axis indicated that cell viability was considerably decreased to 95, 83, 78, 71, 63, and 56 percent, when cells were exposed to MG-63 at concentrations

of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . At 33.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , 50% of viable cells were found on MG-63 cells after 24 h. The IC50 values for (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2) were determined to be 33.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  based on this finding. MG-63 cell survival decreased drastically in a dose-dependent manner, with an IC50 of 33.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  (the concentration that inhibits growth by 50 percent (fig. 4). Cells exceeding 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  are completely destroyed (p 0.05). In cells treated with a 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  concentration of (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotino hydrazide, a change in cell shape was seen along with a drop in cell number (S2) [7].

#### Effect of S1 and S2 on cell morphology

S1 and S2 produced structural changes in MG-63 cells, as indicated by microscopy. At 40x magnification, the photomicrograph demonstrates the morphological changes in MG-63 cells induced by S1, including shrinkage, detachment, membrane blebbing, and distorted shape, as a result of treatment with S1 (20 and 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  for 24 h). Using a light microscope, the control cells displayed normal intact cell morphology [3] (fig. 3).

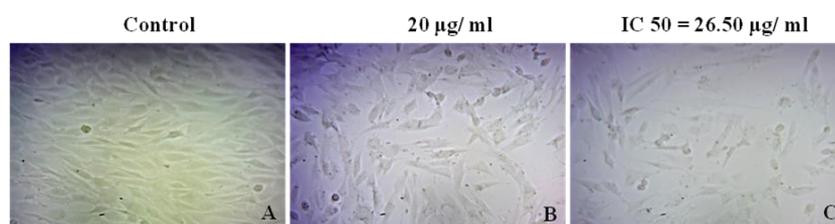


Fig. 3: Changes in morphology in control and S1 treated bone marrow MG-63 cells for 24 h. A) control, B) 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , C) IC 50

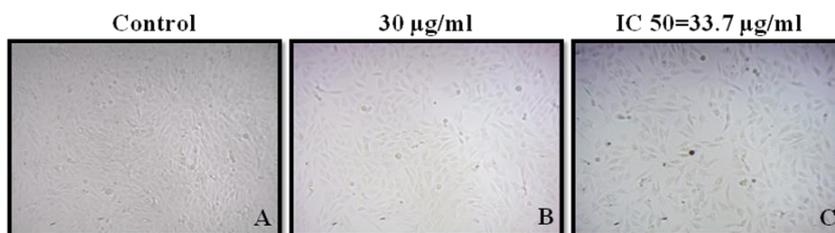


Fig. 4: Changes in morphology in control and S2 treated bone marrow MG-63 cells for 24 h. A) control, B) 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , C) IC 50

The photomicrograph at 20x shows the morphological alterations in MG-63 cells caused by sample (E)-N'-(thiophen-2-ylmethylene) isonicotinohydrazide (S2) treatment (30 and 33.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  for 24 h). The control cells exhibited typical intact morphology and were imaged using a light microscope [3] (fig. 4).

#### Apoptosis Induction in MG-63 cells by S1 and S2 stained with AO/EB

Human osteosarcoma cells treated with S1 (20 and 26.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) for 24 h and S2 (30 and 33.7  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) for 24 h, stained with dual dye AO/EB and analyzed by fluorescence microscopy at 40x and 20x magnification.

Acridine orange is permeable and staining all viable/non-viable MG-63 cells. If it is intercalated into a double-stranded nucleic acid

(DNA), it exhibits green fluorescence; if it is attached to a single-stranded nucleic acid (RNA), it emits red fluorescence. Only nonviable cells that have lost their membrane integrity and emit red fluorescence through DNA intercalation take up ethidium bromide. Based on their fluorescence emission and the physical appearance of chromatin condensation in stained nuclei, four different cell types were identified. Viable cells contain nuclei that are brilliantly green, uniform in size, and well-organized. Early apoptotic cells (those with intact membranes that have initiated DNA fragmentation) show green nuclei, while perinuclear chromatin condensation appears as vivid green patches or fragments. Late apoptotic cells have orange to red nuclei and constricted or fragmented chromatin (fig. 5 and fig. 6). Necrotic cell nuclei are uniformly orange to red in colour and lack condensed chromatin [8, 59].

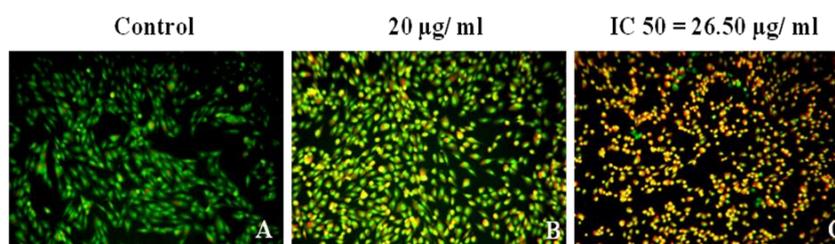


Fig. 5: Acridine orange and ethidium bromide staining (S1). A) Control, B) 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , C) IC 50

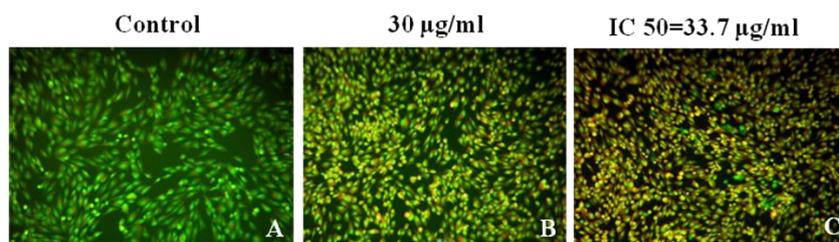


Fig. 6: Acridine orange and ethidium bromide staining (S2). A) Control, B) 20 µg/ml, C) IC 50

## DISCUSSION

In their pursuit of effective cancer medicines, researchers and doctors continue to encounter a formidable obstacle [52]. Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and individualised and targetted biological treatments are only now partially effective and almost always accompanied by significant side effects that may result in cancer recurrence with more aggressive characteristics. To address this issue, it may be necessary to increase clinical dosages of chemotherapeutic drugs to achieve greater tumor-killing effects; however, this increases drug toxicity, which is associated with a variety of undesirable side effects, such as decreased immunity and increased susceptibility to infection [53]. Numerous preclinical and clinical investigations on the efficacy of naturally occurring chemicals in the treatment of cancer have been undertaken, with some demonstrating a significant reduction in disease activity with fewer adverse effects [54]. On the other hand, the key issues are the sustainability and selectivity of naturally occurring chemicals. As a result, much effort has been devoted to the development of anti-cancer synthetic chemicals derived from naturally occurring molecules. The synthetic compounds reported here have molecular structures equivalent to those of natural drugs, include the same active components, and have far safer profiles [8].

Antibacterial, antifungal, anti-TB, and anti-cancer activities of isoniazid schiffbases have been reported [55]. Compared to zerumbone, the Isoniazid derivative (E)-N'-(2,3,4-trihydroxybenzylidene) isonicotinohydrazide (ITHB4) prevents the growth of MCF-7 breast cancer cells. ITHB4 suppressed MCF-7 tumour development with a lower IC50 than zerumbone, and an apoptosis assay demonstrated that ITHB4 triggered apoptosis and cell cycle arrest at the sub-G1 and G2/M stages in MCF-7 cells at the IC50 level. S1 and S2 can inhibit MG-63 human osteosarcoma cells at a lower cost than ITBH4, but they have the same lethal impact [8, 9].

## CONCLUSION

The effects of S1 and S2 on the cell viability of MG-63 cells were determined by using the MTT cytotoxicity assay. Cells were subjected to 5-40µg/ml of each sample (S1 and S2), respectively. Both samples effectively decreased the MG-63 cell viability. Apoptosis studies confirmed this observation. However, when compared with S2, S1 showed increased cytotoxicity to the MG-63 cells with the IC50 at 26.50 µg/ml.

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Nil

## AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors have contributed equally.

## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

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