

Online table 1 | Selected examples of phytochemicals with chemopreventive potential

| Phytochemical | Biological effects | Molecular target effects | Animal model/cell types | References |
|---------------|---|---|--|--|
| Curcumin | | | | |
| | Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ CYP1A1 activity; DMBA–DNA adduct formation ↓ Cyp1a1 activity ↓ Cyp1a1/1a2 activity | Human breast cancer (MCF-7) cells treated with DMBA Mouse liver Rat liver | 1 2 3 |
| | Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Gst activity ↑ Qr activity ↑ Gst and Eh activity ↑ GCL expression and NRF2 nuclear translocation | Rat liver Mouse hepatoma (Hepa 1c1c7) cells Mouse liver Human bronchial epithelial (HBE1) cells | 4 5 2 6 |
| | Control of cell cycle and proliferation | ↓ Cyclin D1 expression and RB phosphorylation ↓ EGR1, c-MYC, BCL-X _L , and TP53 mRNA expression; ↓ NF-κB activation ↓ c-Jun and c-Fos expression | Prostate, breast, squamous carcinoma cells B-cell lymphoma | 7 8 |
| | Induction of apoptosis and/or differentiation | ↓ NF-κB and IKK activity, phosphorylation of IκBα; ↓ BCL2, BCL-X _L , cyclin D1 and IL-6; ↑ caspase-7,9 activity ↑ p53 and BAX expression ↑ caspase-8,3 activity and BID cleavage; ↑ cytochrome c release | Mouse epidermal (JB6) cells; TPA-treated mouse skin | 9 |
| | Inhibition of the activity of oncogene products | ↓ c-Myc, c-Fos and c-Jun expression | Human multiple myeloma cells | 10 |
| | Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↓ MMP2, VEGF and FGF2 mRNA expression; ↑ TIMP1 mRNA expression ↓ uPa expression and fibronectin synthesis ↓ MMP9 expression | Human breast cancer cells Human promyelocytic leukaemia (HL-60) cells | 11 12 |
| Capsaicin | | | | |
| | Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ Cyp2a2/3a1/2c11/2b1/2b2/2c6 activity ↓ Cyp2e1 activity | Hamster and rat liver Rat liver S-9 | 17 18 |
| | Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Gst and Qr activity | Rat tongue tumorigenesis model Azoxymethane-induced rat rat colon tumour | 19 20 |
| | Downregulation of proliferation | ↑ TAX degradation; ↓ BCL2 expression and NF-κB activity ↓ NF-κB activity and IL-8 expression ↓ Nf-κb and Ap1 activation ↓ Nf-κb and Ap1 DNA binding ↓ NADH oxidase activity ↑ PKC activity | Human T-cell leukaemia cells Human malignant melanoma cells Mouse skin <i>in vivo</i> HL-60 cells HL-60 cells and ovarian carcinoma Human and mouse melanoma HL-60 cells | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 |
| | Induction of apoptosis/cell-cycle arrest | ↓ BCL2 expression; ↑ caspase-3 activity ↑ JNK activity and ROS ↑ JNK and p38 MAPK activity ↓ Mitochondrial permeability transition | SK-Hep-1 hepatocellular carcinoma cells Jurkat cell RAS-transformed human breast epithelial cells Human squamous-cell carcinoma cells | 28 29,30 31 32 |
| | Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↑ HIF-1α activity and VEGF mRNA expression | Human malignant melanoma cells | 33 |
| [6]-Gingerol | | | | |
| | Inhibition of TPA-induced tumour promotion | ↓ Odc activity | ICR mouse skin | 34 |
| | Induction of apoptosis | | HL-60 cells | 35 |
| | Inhibition of cell transformation | ↓ Ap1 activation | JB6 cells | 36 |
| | Inhibition of lung metastasis | | Mouse bearing melanoma (B16) cells | 37 |

| EGCG | | | |
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| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ CYP protein expression ↓ NADPH-P450 reductase ↓ AHR binding to DNA; ↓ CYP1A1/2 mRNA expression | Human hepatoma (HepG2) cells Genetically engineered <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> harbouring human CYP and NADPH-P450 reductase HepG2 cells | 38 39 40 |
| Control of cell cycle | ↑ p21, KIP1, p16 and p18 expression; ↓ cyclin D1 and CDK2,4,6 expression and activity ↑ p21, KIP1, p16 and p18 expression; ↓ CDK2,4,6 expression; ↓ cyclin D1 and E protein expression; ↓ cyclin E binding to CDK2; ↑ binding of cyclin D1 towards p21 and KIP1 ↑ p21, p53 and KIP1 protein expression; ↓ CDK2,4 activity | Human epidermoid carcinoma (A431) cells Human prostate carcinoma MCF-7 cells | 41 42,43 44 |
| Control of proliferation | ↓ phosphorylation of Erk1/2, Mek1/2 and Elk1 ↓ Cox2 and cyclin D1 expression; ↓ Pge ₂ production ↓ Phosphorylation of ERBB2, AKT and GSK3α-GST ↓ ODC expression; ↓ MAPK and tyrosine kinase activity | RAS-transformed JB6 cells NMBA-treated F344 rats ERBB2-overexpressing breast cancer cells RAS-transformed (NIH-pATM) fibroblasts | 45 46 47 48 |
| Induction of apoptosis and/or differentiation | ↓ Expression of BCL2 and cyclin D1; ↑ BAX, p21 and KIP1 expression; ↓ phosphorylation of EGFR, STAT3 and ERK ↑ ROS formation and mitochondrial depolarization ↑ FAS/FASL activity; ↑ Expression of p53 and p21 ↓ E2F level and RB phosphorylation ↓ NF-κB expression/activation ↑ Caspase-3 activity | Head and neck squamous carcinoma cells Human prostate cancer (DU145) cells HepG2 cells A431 cells A431 cells Human cervical squamous carcinoma (HeLa) cells HepG2 cells | 49 50 51 52 50,54 54 |
| Inhibition of oncogene expression/activity | ↓ Pkc and c-Myc expression | TPA-treated mouse skin | 55 |
| Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↓ VEGF expression ↓ VEGF binding to receptor ↓ MMP activity ↓ NF-κB, and STAT activity; ↓ VEGF production ↓ VE-cadherin phosphorylation; ↓ AKT activity ↓ MMP2,9 and gelatinase activity | Human colon cancer cells Human umbilical-vein endothelial cells Human umbilical-vein endothelial cells Human head and neck and breast carcinoma cells Human microvascular endothelial cells Human neuroblastoma and fibrosarcoma cells | 56 57 58 59 60 61 |
| Genistein | | | |
| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ DBP-DNA adduct formation ↓ CYP3A4 mRNA level ↓ CYP27b1 expression | MCF-7 cells Human colon carcinoma (Caco-2) cells C57BL/6 mouse colon | 62 63 64 |
| Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ QR mRNA expression and activity ↑ GPX mRNA expression and activity | Human colon cancer (Colo205) cells Human prostate (LNCap, PC-3) cancer cells | 65 66 |
| Control of cell cycle and proliferation | ↑ Phosphorylation of ATM, p53 and CHK2 ↓ c-FOS expression; ↓ AP1 and ERK activity ↑ p21 and KIP1 protein and mRNA expression | Lymphoblastoid cells Human breast cancer (MCF-7, MDA-MB-231, etc.) cells LNCap cells | 67 68 69 |

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| | ↓ CDK1 activity | Human choroidal melanoma (OCM-1) cells | 70 |
| Induction of apoptosis and/or differentiation | ↓ BCL2 expression ↓ NF-κB and AKT activity ↑ Cytochrome c release ↑ BAX and CDKN2A expression; ↓ BCL2 and ERBB2 expression ↑ BAK; ↓ BCL-X _L expression ↑ BAX expression, cytochrome c release and caspase-3 activity; ↓ proteosome activity | MCF-7 cells PC3 cells Breast cancer (MDA-MB-231) cells Human and rat pancreatic tumour cells ERBB2-expressing human breast epithelial cells MCF-7 cells p815 mastocytoma cells | 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 |
| Inhibition of the activity of oncogene product | ↓ N-Myc expression and Ptk activity ↓ uPA activity; ↑ PAI activity; ↓ PA/PAI ratio | Mouse neuroblastoma (N2a) cells N-MYC-transfected neuroblastoma cells | 78 79 |
| Modulation of hormonal and growth-factor activity | ↓ Prostate androgen-regulated transcript-1 ↓ pS2, TGF-β and ER expression ↑ BRCA2 mRNA ↓ Cancer-cell growth by environmental oestrogens ↓ Androgen and oestrogen-receptor expression ↓ NF-κB DNA-binding activity by HGF | LNCaP cells Human breast (MCF7, T47D, etc.) carcinoma cells MDA-MB-231 cells MCF-7 cells, T47D MDA-MB-231 cells Rat prostate HepG2 cells | 80 81 82 83 84 85 |
| Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↓ MMP3,9 activity ↓ uPA and MMP-9/2 production ↓ VEGF and FGF mRNA expression | Malignant mesothelioma cells Ovarian cancer cells Human renal-cell carcinoma cells | 86 87 88 |
| Resveratrol | | | |
| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ Cyp1a activity; ↓ Expression and activity of CYP1A1/1A2; ↓ O-acetyltransferase activity; ↓ PhIP-DNA adduct formation | Hepa1c1c7 cells Human hepatoma and breast cancer cells MCF-7 cells | 89 90 91 |
| Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Qr activity | Hepa1c1c7 cells | 89 |
| Control of cell proliferation | ↓ NF-κB activation ↓ Cox2 and Mmp9 expression ↓ Cox expression and Pge ₂ production ↓ PKC and ERK1 activity; ↓ COX2 mRNA level and AP1 activity | MCF-7 cells Rat mammary carcinogenesis model NMBA-induced rat esophageal tumour Human mammary and oral epithelial cells | 92 92 93 94,95 |
| Control of cell cycle | ↑ p21 expression; ↓ cyclin D1,D2, E expression; ↓ CDK2/4/6 expression and activity; ↓ RB phosphorylation and E2F expression ↓ Cyclin B1,D1, A1 and β-catenin expression ↓ Cyclin D1 and CDK4 expression; ↓RB phosphorylation | A431 cells Human colon carcinoma (SW480) cells Human colon adenocarcinoma (Caco-2 and HCT-116) cells | 96,97 98 99 |
| Induction of apoptosis and/or differentiation | ↓ NF-κB activity; ↑ cytochrome c release and caspase-3 activation ↓ Lipid peroxidation, MAPK and JNK activity; ↓ NF-κB and AP1 activity; ↓ ROS generation ↓ BCL2 expression ↑ Expression of BAX, p21 and p53 ↓ BCL2 expression; ↑ BAX expression ↓ Ikb kinase activity and Nf-κb activation | Human pancreatic cancer cells Human myeloid, lymphoid and epithelial cells HL-60 cells HepG2 cells Oesophageal (EC-9706) cancer cells Rat-1 cells expressing oncogenic <i>Hras</i> | 74 100 101 102 103 104 |

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| | Co-localization of BAX with mitochondria; ↑ caspase-3,9 activity, ↓ mitochondrial membrane potential ↑ Caspase-9 activity ↑ Mapks activation and p53 phosphorylation ↑ Phosphorylation of ERK1,2, ELK1 and p53 ↑ Expression of CD11a, CD11b, CD18, CD54; ↑ superoxide production ↑ Expression of p53, p21, p300/CBP and APAF1 | Human colon cancer (HCT-116) cells HL-60 cells JB6 cells Human prostate (DU145) cells Human myelod leukaemia cells LNCaP cells | 105 106 107,108 109 110 111 |
| | Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↓ DNA synthesis; ↓ binding of Vegf to Huvec | Mice bearing Lewis cell carcinoma 112 |
| CAPE | | | |
| | Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Expression of NQO1 and GST Ya mediated via ARE element | HepG2 cells 113 |
| | Control of cell proliferation | ↓ ODC protein and mRNA expression; ↓ PKC activity; ↓ EGF binding and EGF receptor phosphorylation ↓ β-Catenin expression | SV40 transformed human keratinocytes 114 |
| | Induction of apoptosis | ↑ Caspase-3 activity and BAX expression; ↓ BCL2 expression ↑ Caspase-3 activity ↓ Mitochondrial membrane potential and GSH ↓ GSH levels | HL-60 cells p53 mutant human lung and ovarian carcinoma cells HL-60 cells Adenovirus transformed rat embryo fibroblasts 116 117 118 119 |
| | Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↓ Phosphorylation of focal adhesion kinase and p130Cas | Human colon carcinoma cells 120 |
| | Miscellaneous (including antioxidant gene expression) | ↓ Nrf2-Keap1 complex; ↑ Nrf2 DNA binding; ↑ Ho-1 expression and activity | Porcine renal epithelial cells 121 |
| Indole-3-carbinol | | | |
| | Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ DNA adduct formation | PhIP- and IQ-induced rat mammary tumour PhIP-induced rat colon carcinogenesis model 122 123 |
| | Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Gstt1-1 protein and mRNA expression ↑ Cyp1a1/1b1/2b1/2b2 mRNA transcription and activity | Dihaloalkane-treated rat liver Oestrogen-treated female rats 124 125 |
| | Control of cell cycle and proliferation | ↓ Oestrogen receptor phosphorylation ↑ p21 and KIP1 protein expression; ↓ CDK6 protein expression and activity; ↓ RB phosphorylation | Oestrogen-responsive human breast cancer cells PC-3 cells 126 127 |
| | Induction of apoptosis | ↑ BAX expression; ↓ BCL2 expression; ↓ AKT phosphorylation and activity; ↓ BCL-X _L , BAD expression and NF-κB DNA-binding activity ↓ NF-κB DNA binding; AKT activation | PC-3 cells MDA-MB-468, LNCaP cells 127,128 129 |
| | Modulation of hormonal and growth-factor activity | ↓ ER-α signalling; ↑ BRCA1 expression | MCF-7, T-47D and MDA-MB-468 cells 130,131 |
| | Inhibition of angiogenesis, metastasis and invasion | ↑ Protein expression of E-cadherin, α-, β- and γ-catenin ↓ PTEN expression | MCF-7 and MDA-MB-468 cells T-47D cells 131 132 |

Diallyl sulphide

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| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ P450 2e1 activity | Rat liver S-9 fraction | 18 |
| Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Qr and Gst activity | Wistar rats tumorigenesis model | 133 |
| | ↑ Prod and Gst activity; ↑ expression of Cyp1a1/ 2b1/3a1 mRNA and protein | Sprague-Dawley rat tissues | 134 |
| | ↑ Activity of Gst, Gpx and Gr | Ethacrynic-acid-treated rat liver | 135 |
| Induction of apoptosis | ↑ p53 and BAX expression; ↓ BCL2 expression | <i>t</i> -Butyl-hydroperoxide and H_2O_2 -treated mouse stomach tissue | 136 |
| Inhibition of angiogenesis, | | Non-small-cell lung cancer (H460 & H1299) cells | 137 |
| | | Ehrlich ascite tumour-bearing Swiss albino mice | 138 |

Lycopene

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| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA damage | ↓ 8-OHdG formation | Human prostate cancer tissue | 139 |
| Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ Gsh, Gst, Gpx and Gr activity | DMBA-induced hamster buccal pouch carcinogenesis model | 140,141 |
| | ↑ Gsh, Gst, Gpx and GR | MMNG-induced rat gastric carcinogenesis model | 142 |
| | ↑ Gsh, Sod and Gpx activity | Female Wistar rats | 143 |
| Control of cell cycle and apoptosis | ↓ Cyclin D1,D3 expression and CDK2,4 activity; ↓ retention of KIP1 in cyclin-E-CDK2 complex ↓ Tyrosine phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate-1; ↓ AP1 DNA binding; ↑ IGF-binding protein ↓ Proliferation ↑ Apoptosis | Human breast and endometrial cancer cells MCF-7 cells MCF-7,MDA-MB-231 cells HL-60 cells | 144 145 146 147 |

Sulphoraphane

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| Inhibition of carcinogen activation and DNA binding | ↓ Cyp2e1 activity | Rat liver microsomes | 148 |
| Stimulation of carcinogen detoxification | ↑ GST and QR protein expression; ↓ DNA adduct ↑ NQO1 and AKR1C1 protein and mRNA expression ↑ Qr and Gst activity | Human mammary epithelial (MCF-10F) cells Human colon adenocarcinoma (LS-174) cells Rat liver, colon and pancreas | 149 150 151 |
| Induction of apoptosis and cell-cycle arrest | ↓ Androgen receptors, PSA production and cyclin-D1 expression ↑ Cyclin A,B and BAX expression; ↑ cytochrome c release | LNCaP cells Human colon cancer (HT29) cells | 152 153 |

AHR, aryl hydrocarbon receptor; APAF, apoptotic protease-activating factor; Apc, adenomatous polyposis coli; ARE, antioxidant-response element; ATM, ataxia telangiectasia mutated; BAD, BCL2-antagonist of cell death; BAK, BCL2-homologous antagonist/killer; B[a]P, benzo[a]pyrene; BAX, BCL2-associated X protein; BCL2, B-cell CLL/lymphoma 2; BID, BH3-interacting domain death agonist; BRCA, breast cancer; CBP, cyclic AMP response element binding protein; CDC, cell-division cycle; CDK, cyclin-dependent kinase; CHK2, checkpoint 2; COX2, cyclooxygenase 2; CYP, cytochrome p450; DBP, dibenz[a,j]pyrene; DMBA, 7,12-dimethylbenz[a]anthracene; EGCG, epigallocatechin gallate; EGR1, early growth response 1; EH, epoxide hydrolase; ER, oestrogen receptor; ERBB2, v-erb-b2 erythroblastic leukaemia viral oncogene homologue 2; ERK, extracellular-signal-regulated kinase; FASL, FAS ligand; FGF, fibroblast growth factor; GCL, glutamate-cysteine ligase; GSH, reduced glutathione; GPX, glutathione peroxidase; GR, glutathione reductase; GSK3 α , glycogen synthase kinase-3 α ; GST, glutathione-S-transferase; HGF, hepatocyte growth factor; HIF-1 α , hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α ; HO-1, haem oxygenase-1; Huvec, human umbilical vein endothelial cells; IKK, I κ B kinase; IL, interleukin; JNK, c-JUN NH₂-terminal kinase; Keap1, Kelch-like ECH-associated protein-1; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MEK, MAPK kinase; MMNG, N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine; MMP, matrix metalloproteinase; NMBA, N-nitrosomethylbenzylamine; NQO1, NAD(P)H:quinone oxidoreductase 1; NRF2, NF-E2-related factor-2; Odc, ornithine decarboxylase; OhdG, 7,8-dihydro-8-oxo-2'-deoxyguanosine; PAI, plasminogen-activator inhibitor; PGE₂, prostaglandin E2; PhIP, 2-amino-1-methyl-6-phenylimidazol[4,5-*b*]pyridine; PKC, protein kinase c; PROD, pentoxysorufin-O-dealkylase; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homologue; PTK, protein tyrosine kinase; QR, quinone reductase; RB, retinoblastoma; ROS, reactive oxygen species; STAT3, signal transducer and activator of transcription 3; TGF- β , transforming growth factor- β ; TIMP1, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase 1; TPA, 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate; uPA, urokinase plasminogen activator; VE, vascular endothelial cadherin; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

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