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Effect of essential oil of leaf and aerial part of *Rosmarinus Officinalis* on passive avoidance memory in aged and young mice

Farshid Asadi and Pooneh Kishani Farahani
Jondi Shapour University, Iran

Background and Objective: In this study, the effect of essential oil of aerial part of *Rosmarinus officinalis*, which is rich of antioxidants, was investigated on memory of young and aged mice with passive avoidance apparatus.

Materials and Methods: Five groups of each young and aged mice (n = 8) were selected for this study. All doses of essential oils of leaf and aerial part of *Rosmarinus officinalis* (200, 400, 600, 800 mg/kg) were injected intraperitoneally once a day for 7 days to four groups of age and young mice and fifth group (control) received 10 ml/kg distilled water once daily for 7 days.

Results: Mean of step-down latency on day 4 in comparison with day 2 became significantly longer ($P < 0.05$) in all young and aged groups of mice. On the other hand, the mean of step-down latency in all groups received different doses of essential oil to compare with control group showed significant ($P < 0.05$) improvement in memory test in day 4. Also in all aged group received different doses of essential oil step-down latency were significantly ($P < 0.05$) longer than young groups.

Conclusion: The result showed that, the essential oil of *Rosmarinus officinalis* improves memory in all young and aged animal groups, but it was more effective on aged mice

farshid_asadi@yahoo.com

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