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Silymarin: As a multi-potential, novel and effective compound on diabetes and chemotherapy

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Silymarin (SMN) is a polyphenolic mixture of flavonolignans extracted from seeds of the milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*). It was found attribute to its capability in the reduction of NO and MDA levels and myeloperoxidase activity, suggesting it's not only antioxidant but also anti-nitrosative capacities. Traditionally, SMN has been used as a natural remedy for digestive problems and in particular for diseases of the liver and the biliary tract, for menstrual disorders and varicose veins. There are increasing data indicating beneficial effects of SMN on various disorders and diseases in different tissues. We in our investigations during the last ten years found that SMN exerts remarkable protective and regulatory effects on drug and xenobiotic biotransforming enzymes in experimentally-induced diabetic animals. At the same series of investigation we explored that although both SMN and melatonin treatment was able to normalize the antioxidant status, while only SMN administration could restore the β cells of Langerhans islets in diabetic rats. The anti-inflammatory property of SMN on mono-iodoacetate- induced osteoarthritis and antinociceptive effects on acetic acid-induced reaction were also clarified. In another study the SMN protective and preventive effects on doxorubicin-induced carbonyl stress, DNA damage, and its capability in the alteration of c-myc gene expression were demonstrated. SMN beneficial effects on mycophenolate mofetil-induced duodenal disorders

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