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Partial purification of cytotoxic substances from Moxa extract

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The major cytotoxic activity of Moxa was extracted with CH₂Cl₂ and partially purified by three cycles of silica gel column chromatography. The active fractions showed higher cytotoxicity against six human tumor cell lines than three normal oral human cells. Active fractions induced DNA fragmentation in HL-60 cells, but failed to modify the mobility and activity of mitochondrial Mn-containing superoxide dismutase (MnSOD), in contrast to Moxa smoke. These data suggest that the active principles in the Moxa extract might be different from that in Moxa smoke, which produced carbon radical and modified MnSOD mobility and activity.