



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**TOXICITY EVALUATION OF CURCUMIN ANALOGUE ON ZEBRAFISH**

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**TOXICITY EVALUATION OF CURCUMIN ANALOGUE ON  
ZEBRAFISH**



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## PENGESAHAN

Dengan ini adalah disahkan bahawa tesis projek yang bertajuk “Toxicity Evaluation of Curcumin Analogue On Zebrafish” telah disiapkan serta dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Biokimia oleh TAN HONG WEI (165060) sebagai syarat untuk kursus BCM4999 Projek.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Aristolochic acid
AAN	Aristolochic acid nephropathy
COX	Cyclooxygenase
DMSO	Dimethyl Sulfoxide
dpf	Day–post- fertilization
DPX	Distyrene Plasticizer Xylene
E.M	Embryo Medium
GI	Gastro-intestinal
g/mol	Gram per mole
hpf	Hour –post- fertilization
H & E	Hematoxylin and Eosin
LC <sub>50</sub>	Lethal concentration 50
ml	milli litre
μM	Micromolar
mM	Millimolar
MW	Molecular weight
NSAID	Non- steroidial anti-inflammatory drug

## **ABSTRACT**

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are among the most broadly prescribed medications in the world. But, NSAIDs confer side effects towards the gastrointestinal(GI) system.In Malaysia, the usage of one of the NSAIDs,celecoxib, a Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors, had increased by two fold from 2006 to 2007. Curcumin analogues are of great interest in pharmacological research due to its advantages compared with pure curcumin. Curcumin analogues are proposed to be used as an alternative curative drugs for the treatment of certain ailments such as inflammatory diseases.Recently, zebrafish has emerge as a toxicology test model organism for the research of vertebrae genetics and developmental biology. The aim of this research is to determine the effect of curcumin analogue (MS65) on zebrafish embryos survivability and heart beat, zebrafish embryos development, and the kidney and intestine of adult zebrafish. The estimated LC<sub>50</sub> of curcumin analogue were 12.5 $\mu$ M for embryos and larvae. Histological analysis of the MS65 treated kidney of adult zebrafish showed low levels of necrosis while eroded villi was associated with MS65 treated zebrafish intestine. Meanwhile, zebrafish larvae incubated with MS65 developed yolk sac edema. Hence, the low toxicity shown by curcumin analogue (MS65) on zebrafish embryos and larvae led to the proposal of curcumin analogue (MS65) to be developed as an anti-inflammatory drugs. Further pre-clinical and clinical toxicity studies have to be done before MS65 can be developed as a new drug.

## **ABSTRAK**

Ubat anti-keradangan bukan steroid (NSAIDs) adalah antara ubat yang mempunyai preskripsi yang meluas di persada dunia. Walau bagaimanapun, penggunaan NSAIDs memberi kesan sampingan terhadap sistem gastrousus (GI). Di Malaysia, penggunaan salah satu NSAID, iaitu celecoxib yang merupakan perencat COX-2, telah menunjukkan peningkatan dua kali ganda dari tahun 2006 hingga 2007. Analog kurkumin telah mendapat perhatian yang sewajarnya dalam kajian farmakologi ekoran kebaikananya berbanding kurkumin tulen. Analog kurkumin telah dicadangkan sebagai ubat alternatif untuk rawatan sesetengah penyakit seperti penyakit keradangan. Baru-baru ini, ikan zebra telah muncul sebagai organisma model ujian toksikologi untuk penyelidikan dalam bidang genetik vertebra dan biologi pembangunan. Tujuan penyelidikan ini dijalankan adalah untuk menentukan kesan analog kurkumin (MS65) terhadap kemandirian dan denyutan jantung embrio ikan zebra, pertumbuhan embrio ikan zebra, dan buah pinggang dan usus ikan zebra dewasa. Anggaran nilai  $LC_{50}$  bagi analog kurkumin (MS65) adalah  $12.5\mu M$  bagi embrio dan larva. Analisis histologi buah pinggang ikan zebra dewasa yang dirawat dengan MS65 menunjukkan tahap nekrosis yang rendah manakala kehakisan villi kelihatan pada bahagian usus yang dirawat. Sementara itu, larva ikan zebra yang dirawat dengan MS65 mempamerkan edema pada kuning kantung. Oleh itu, tahap ketoksikan yang rendah yang ditunjukkan oleh analog kurkumin (MS65) terhadap embrio dan larva ikan zebra telah mencadangkannya untuk digunakan sebagai ubat alternatif untuk rawatan penyakit tertentu seperti penyakit keradangan. Kajian lanjutan pra-klinikal dan klinikal perlu dijalankan sebelum MS65 boleh dijadikan sebagai ubat yang baharu.

## **Chapter 1.0**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Research Background**

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are among the most broadly prescribed drugs in the world (Miura, 2012). But, NSAIDs confer side effects towards the gastrointestinal (GI) system. The drugs exert inhibitory effects to cyclooxygenase 1 (COX-1) that is expressed continuously in the GI mucosa. The systemic administration of some NSAIDs that trigger GI mucosal injury is the secretion into the bile and routed to enterohepatic transport system (Lichtenberger, 2001). Celecoxib, a specific COX-2 inhibitor, is a novel non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) and is utilized mainly for the curing of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and pain (Hyun et al., 2015).

Many selective COX-2 inhibitors such as celecoxib, rofecoxib, valdecoxib and etoricoxib may cause elevated risk of profound and potentially fatal detrimental cardiovascular thrombotic events, myocardial infarction and stroke (Bansal et al., 2014). In Malaysia, the usage of cyclooxygenase 2 inhibitors (coxibs) has displayed significant increment. One of the COX-2 inhibitors, celecoxib was chiefly administered in public hospitals while its utilization had increased by two fold from 2006 to 2007 (Hussein et al., 2007). Curcumin is one of the phytochemicals isolated from traditional herb *Curcuma longa*. It is a non-polar bioactive compound (Anand et al., 2007). Two centuries ago, Vogel and Pelletier discovered curcumin in the rhizome of *Curcuma longa* (turmeric) (S. Prasad et al., 2014).

A number of studies pose that curcumin has anti-cancer, anti-viral, antiamyloid, anti-arthritic, anti-oxidation and anti-inflammation features. The mechanisms involved are complicated and encompass several molecular interactions (Chuah et al., 2014). Likewise, cardiovascular protection is also another pharmacological activity of curcumin. The potentials of curcumin as an agent for prevention and treatment of humankind diseases are chiefly due to its natural safety and pharmacological efficacy (Z. Liu et al., 2014).

Evidences suggest that curcumin has cardio-protective impacts. C-reactive protein, a predictor and independent risk factor of cardiovascular disease, reduced

significantly with curcumin supplementation. This polyphenol is effective against atherosclerosis and myocardial infarction (Prasad et al., 2014). Moreover, the modulation of enzymatic actions and expressions of genes have attributed to the ability of curcumin as therapeutic agent (Wu et al., 2007). The plausible biochemical bioactivity of curcumin comprises the potency to diminish catalytic cyclooxygenase, lipoxygenase and phospholipase A2 (Saja et al., 2007). Likewise, curcumin functions as a COX-2 inhibitor by modulating immune-inflammation (Lopresti et al., 2014).

So, numerous integrated methods are implemented to synthesize new analogues so as to bolster bioavailability of curcumin (Katsori et al., 2011). A series of curcumin analogues with more stable structures and sound pharmacokinetics properties were synthesized (Yuan et al., 2014).

Recently, zebrafish has emerged as a toxicology test model organism for the research of vertebrae genetics and developmental biology. Extensive studies demonstrated that zebrafish share high levels of physiological and genetic resemblance to mammals (He et al., 2014). Hence, the evaluation of toxicities of compounds towards humans can be investigated by utilizing zebrafish as a test model.

Curcumin analogues are of great interest due to its advantages compared with pure curcumin. In the meantime, curcumin analogue (MS65) was synthesized in the Chemical Lab of Institute of Bioscience, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Curcumin analogue (MS65) are proposed to be used as an alternative curative drugs for the treatment of certain ailments such as inflammatory-associated diseases.

## 1.2 OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the effect of curcumin analogue (MS65) on zebrafish embryos survivability and heart beat
2. To determine the effect of curcumin analogue (MS65) on zebrafish embryos development
3. To determine the effect of curcumin analogue (MS65) on the kidney and intestine of adult zebrafish

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