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ACTIVATION OF AUTOPHAGY AND OF Nrf2-DEPENDENT SIGNALING PATHWAY IN HUMAN BREAST ADENOCARCINOMA CELL LINE MCF-7 BY NOVEL MONOPHENOLIC ANTIOXIDANTS

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In order to find new drugs for neoplastic prevention and adjunct to anti-cancer treatment, we have studied the effect of novel water-soluble structurally related monophenolic compounds on the activity of two most important mechanisms of maintaining intracellular homeostasis, such as autophagy and the redox-sensitive signal system Keap1/Nrf2/ARE, in human breast adenocarcinoma cell line MCF-7. The investigation was performed using confocal microscopy. When studying the effect of synthesized compounds on autophagy, a change in the content of intracellular LC3B-positive vesicles (autophagosomes) was analyzed and the ability of the compounds to activate the Keap1/Nrf2/ARE system was determined by their effect on the translocation factor Nrf2 into the nucleus. The influence of tested substances on the rate of autophagosome biogenesis varied depending on their structure and concentration. When inhibitor of autophagosome-lysosomal fusion, chloroquine had been added in culture medium, asymmetrically hindered by *tert*-butyl-group phenols with thiosulfonate (TS-13) and sulfonate group in the *para*-propyl substituent (20 μM) increased the rate of autophagosome elimination in MCF-7 cells, and the shortening of the *para*-alkyl substituent by one methylene unit abolished the effect. But the addition of the second ortho-*tert*-butyl substituent restored it. Of the two tested compounds, both enhanced

the translocation of the transcription factor Nrf2 into the nucleus of MCF-7 cells (the key point to activation of the Keap1/Nrf2/ARE system): phenol asymmetrically hindered by *tert*-butyl-group and having selenosulfonate group in *para*-propyl substituent after 4 hours of incubation (5—100 μ M), TS-13 — after 24 hours of incubation (5—100 μ M). Based on our data earlier provided on the toxicity features of this group of compounds in relation to MCF-7 cells, we can conclude that they are related to the difference in the effect of substances on autophagy and the activation of the signal system of the antioxidant-responsive element Keap1/Nrf2/ARE.

Key words: MCF-7 cell line, Keap1/Nrf2/ARE system, nuclear/cytoplasmic ratio, autophagosome, LC3B, chloroquine, synthetic monophenols, hindering
