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## PARASITOLOGY &amp; INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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***In vitro* effects of pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata*) seed extracts on *Echinococcus granulosus* protoscoleces****Zahra Hesari Sherme<sup>1</sup>, Meysam Sharifdini<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Kazem Sharifi-yazdi<sup>2</sup>, Bahram Nikmanesh<sup>2</sup>, Shahram Mahmoudi<sup>2</sup>, Mehdi Mohebbi<sup>2</sup>, Saeedeh Ghafari<sup>3</sup> and Sara Ghasemi<sup>3</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Iran<sup>2</sup>Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran<sup>3</sup>Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Iran

*Echinococcus granulosus* parasite causes a zoonotic disease which is important for public and veterinary health. Since pumpkin seeds (*Cucurbita sp*) are used as traditional vermifuge in Iran, they may be a potential herbal anthelmintic. This study was designed to evaluate the *in vitro* scolicidal effect of *Cucurbita moschata* seeds. Hydro alcoholic and petroleum ether extracts were prepared by maceration and Soxhlet, respectively. Both extracts with four different concentrations (100, 10, 1, 0.1 mg/ml) were incubated against protoscoleces in 5, 15, 30 and 60 minutes. Maximum mortality was 16% with 1% hydro alcoholic extract in 60 minutes. Highest mortality with organic extract was 4% with 10% concentration in 60 minutes (P=0.015). Since highest mortality was 16%, the extract didn't reach to LD 50 (50% mortality). Therefore, the potency of the total extract is not sufficient as potential scolicidal drug.

**Biography**

Zahra Hesari has completed her PhD in Pharmaceutics from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran. She is currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutics at School of Pharmacy, Guilan University of Medical Sciences, Iran. Her major research interest includes formulation and physicochemical evaluation of orally disintegrating tablets and neural tissue engineering. She has published more than 6 papers in reputed journals. She is also a Reviewer of several national and international journals.

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