



BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF 1, 3, 4-OXADIAZOLE DERIVATIVES

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ABSTRACT

Heterocyclic compounds possess wide range of biological properties. One of these compounds is Oxadiazole. 1,3,4-Oxadiazole is highly privileged structure. Its derivatives exhibit wide range of biological activities which include antibacterial, antitubercular, antifungal, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, vasodilatory, hypolipidemic, cytotoxic, ulcerogenic and anticancer activities. This review attempts to summarize basic information about 1, 3, 4-oxadiazole and its biological activity for further development in the field.

KEY WORDS: 1, 3,4-Oxadiazole, Anti-inflammatory activity, Antitubercular activity, Analgesic activity, Anticonvulsant Activity, Antimicrobial Activity, Anticancer Activity.

INTRODUCTION

Oxadiazole is a five membered heterocyclic aromatic compound having molecular formula $C_2H_2ON_2$. Out of its four possible isomers, 1,3,4-oxadiazole is widely being

exploited for various biological applications. Literature survey reveals that 1,3,4-oxadiazole is a highly privileged structure. Its 2,5-disubstituted derivatives

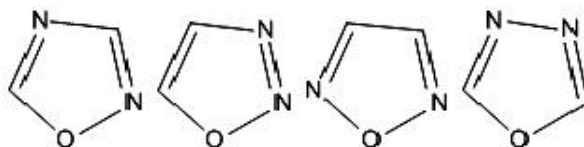


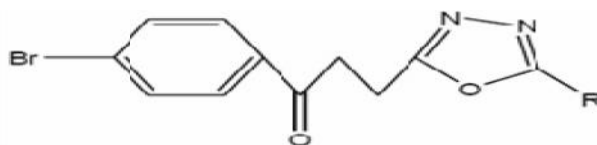
exhibit diverse biological activities¹ like antibacterial², antitubercular³, vasodilatory⁴, antifungal⁵, anti-inflammatory⁶, anticonvulsant⁷, cytotoxic⁸, anaesthetic⁹, analgesic¹⁰, hypolipidemic¹¹, anticancer¹² and ulcerogenic¹³ activities. Moreover 1,3,4-oxadiazole is widely being exploited for its various applications. A number of therapeutic agents such as HIV – integrase inhibitor raltegravir, antibacterial furazolidone, a potent PDF inhibitor BB-83698, and nesapidil are based on 1,3,4-oxadiazole moiety¹⁴. Oxadiazole derivatives have been found to possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity and useful sub structures for further molecular exploration¹⁵.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are widely used in treatment of inflammation and painful conditions including rheumatic arthritis, osteoarthritis *etc.*

a. Asif Husain *et al.*, 2009 synthesized a novel series of 2-[3-(4-bromophenyl)propan-3-one]-5-(substituted phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoles from 3-(4-bromobenzoyl) propionic acid with the aim to get better anti-inflammatory and analgesic drugs with minimum side effects (ulcerogenicity). Two compounds, 2-[3-(4-bromophenyl)-propan-3-one]-5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole and 2-[3-(4-bromophenyl)propan-3-one]-5-(3,4-dimethoxy phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole with anti-inflammatory activity of 59.5 and 61.9 %, respectively, were found to have comparable activity with that of indomethacin which showed 64.3 % activity at the same dose¹⁶.

BIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

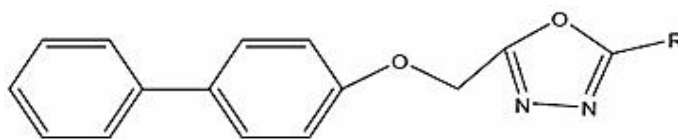
Anti-inflammatory activity



b. Kumar Harish *et al.*, 2008 synthesized another series of 1,3,4-oxadiazole and 1,2,4-triazole derivatives of biphenyl-4-yloxy acetic acid & screened them for their potent anti-inflammatory activity by using carrageenan

induced rat paw edema method. The compounds were found to possess much more anti-inflammatory activity (81.81%) than the reference drug flurbiprofen (79.54%)¹⁷. More it was found to possess low ulcerogenic effect.

Biological importance of 1, 3, 4-Oxadiazole



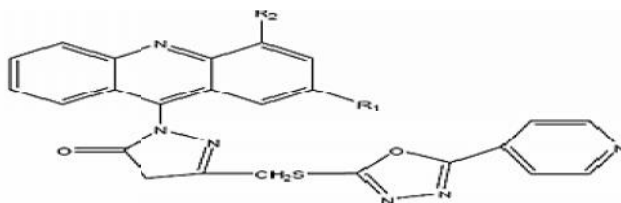
c. Akhtermymoonae *et al.*, 2009 reported synthesis of 2, 5-disubstituted – 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives based on Aroylpropionic acid. These synthesized compounds were studied for their anti-inflammatory, analgesic, ulcerogenic,

and lipid peroxidation. Some of synthesized compounds showed anti-inflammatory activity 81.46% and 812.48% respectively against standard drug ibuprofen¹⁸.



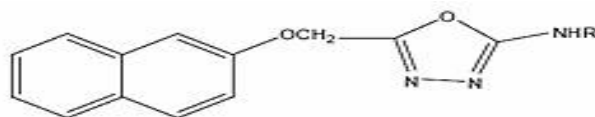
d. Trilok Chandra *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series of oxadiazole derivatives. These compounds were screened for their anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity. These compounds were found to possess anti-inflammatory

activity ranging from 10.8 to 40.8% at a dose of 50mg/kg i.p.¹⁹. In addition these compounds also exhibited analgesic activity.



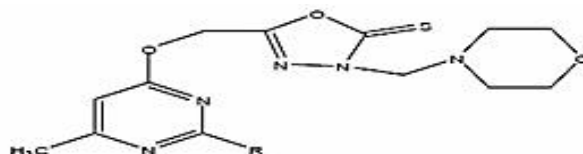
f. Erhan Palaska *et al.*, 2002 synthesized a series of 1-(2-naphthyloxyacetyl)-4-substituted-3-thiosemicarbazide, 2-(2-naphthyloxymethyl)-5-substitutedamino-1,3,4-oxadiazole, 2-(2-naphthyloxymethyl)-5-substitutedamino-

1,3,4-thiadiazole and 5-(2-naphthyloxymethyl)-4-substituted-1,2,4-triazole-3-thione derivatives and evaluated them for their anti-inflammatory activity with reduced side effects²⁰.



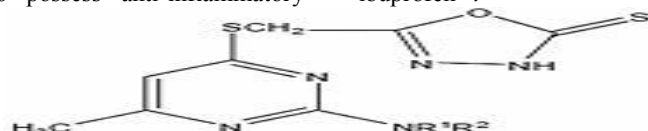
g. Viriginija Jakubkiene *et al.*, 2010 synthesized 5-(6-methyl – 2 –substituted – 4-pyrimidinylloxymethyl)-2, 3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-thiones and screened them for their anti-inflammatory activity. Most of tested

compounds exhibited anti-inflammatory activity with some showing even more activity than acetylsalicylic acid²¹.



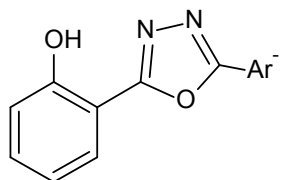
h. Milda Malvina Burbuliene *et al.*, 2004 synthesised a series of 5-[(2-disubstitutedamino-6-methyl-pyrimidin-4-yl)-sulfanylmethyl]-3H-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-thiones and their S-alkyl-, N3-acyl- and N3-aminomethyl derivatives. All the tested compounds possess anti-inflammatory

activity comparable to that of acetylsalicylic acid and some derivatives of 5-[(6-methyl-2-piperidin-1-yl-pyrimidin-4-yl)-sulfanylmethyl]-3H-1, 3, 4- oxadiazole-2-thione were found to be much more active than ibuprofen²².

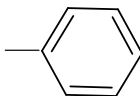


Antitubercular activity

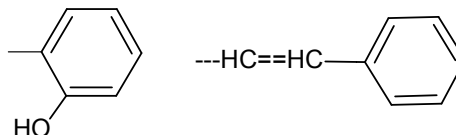
Tuberculosis is a chronic disease and is major health problem in developing countries. It is caused by various strains of mycobacteria usually mycobacterium tuberculosis. Tuberculosis usually affects the lungs but can also affect other parts of body.



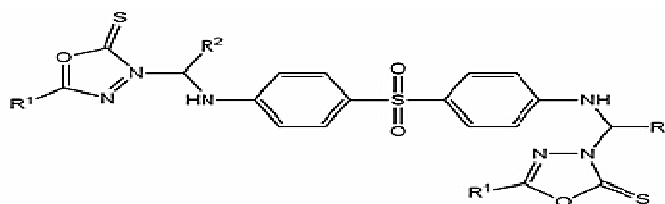
(1a) (1b)



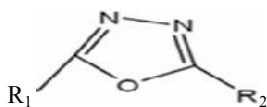
(1c)



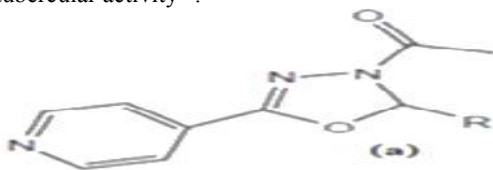
b. Mohamed Ashraf *et al.*, 2007 have synthesized a series of oxadiazolemannich base derivatives, by condensation of synthesized oxadiazole with dapsone and appropriate aromatic aldehyde i.p.o methanol. The synthesized compounds were tested for their antimycobacterial activity. They reported that eleven compounds exhibited excellent antimycobacterial activity.



c. Dewangan Dhansay *et al.*, 2010 reported in vitro antitubercular activity of series of 2, 5-disubstituted-1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives. These compounds exhibited better activity against a strain of mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Rv²⁵.



d. Yar Shaharm, *et al.*, 2007 synthesized a series of 2,5-disubstituted 1,3,4-oxadiazoles and reported their good antitubercular activity²⁶.

**Analgesic activity**

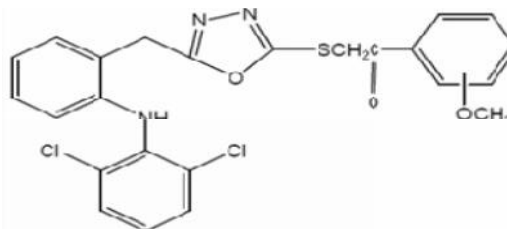
Analgesic is any member of group of drugs which relieves body from pain. These include paracetamol, aspirin, morphine, opium etc. The Choice of analgesic is determined from type of pain.

a. Shashikant, V., Bhandari *et al.*, 2008 synthesized a series of S-substituted phenacryl -1,3,4-oxadiazole and schiffs bases derived from 2-[(2,6-dichloroanilino) phenyl] acetic acid (diclofenac acid) Out of 18 compounds synthesized, eight were found to possess significant

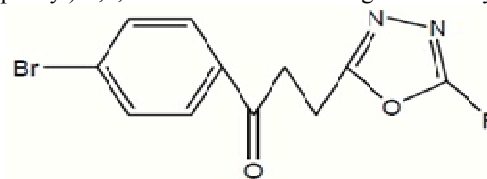
a. Pallon *et al.*, 2009 synthesized some novel 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives and evaluated them for their antitubercular activity by middle brook 7H9 medium against H37Rv strain as compared to standard drug streptomycin. Compound 1a have shown promising activity and 1b, 1c have shown moderate activity²³.

Among various compounds synthesized 3-{ -furyl-[4-(4-2-furyl[5-(2-nephtyloxymethyl)-2-thioxo-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole-3yl] methylamino) phenylsulfonyl] aniline] methyl}-5-(2- nephtyloxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-thione was found to be most potent compound against both *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv and INH resistant tuberculosis²⁴.

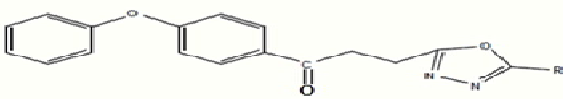
analgesic activity in acetic acid induced writhing tests with no ulcerogenic activity. *e.g.* following compounds have most prominent analgesic activity²⁷.



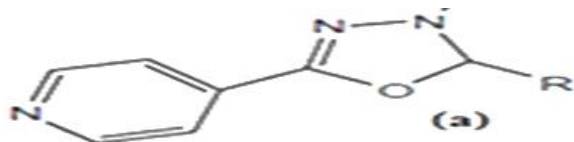
b. Hussain Asif *et al.*, 2008 reported synthesis of some 2-[3-(4-bromo phenyl) propane-3-ones]-5-(substituted phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoles with analgesic activity²⁸.



c. Husain *et al.*, 2009 synthesized a series of novel 1-(4-phenoxyphenyl)-3-[5-(substituted aryl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl] propane-1-ones and screened for analgesic activity. The 2-acetoxy phenyl derivatives of this series have shown 76% analgesic activity which is higher than standard drug indomethacin²⁹.



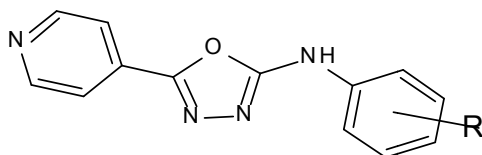
d. Dewangon Dhansay *et al.*, 2010 reported synthesis of some novel 2,5-disubstituted-1,3,4-oxadiazoles (a) and their synthetic analogs and confirmed their analgesic activity by using acetic acid induced writhing method as compared to standard drug diclofenac. Potent analgesic activity have been found in bis (heterocycle) substituted-1,3,4-oxadiazole³⁰.



Anticonvulsant Activity

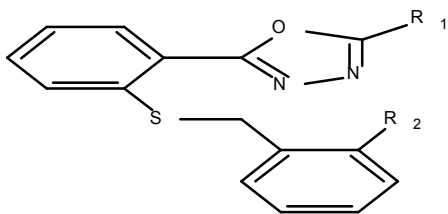
Anticonvulsants are those drugs which selectively depress the central nervous system. These drugs are used in the prevention and control of epileptic seizures.

a. YarShahar Mohammad *et al.*, 2007 synthesized a series of 2-(substituted phenyl)amino-5-(4-pyridyl)-4H-1,3,4-thiadiazoles and 2-(substituted phenyl)amino-5-(4-pyridyl)-4H-1,3,4-oxadiazoles. All the compounds showed activity in the range of 33-99% in comparison to phenytoin which completely inhibited the convulsions. Compound (a) showed maximum activity and compound (b) [p-chloro substituted] showed good activity³¹.



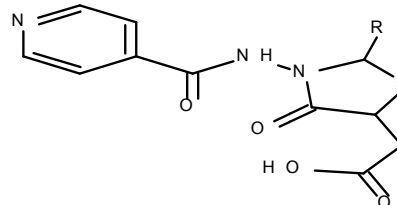
(a) R = H and (b) R = p-Cl

b. Zarghi Afshin *et al.*, 2005 synthesized a new series of 2-substituted-5-{2-[(2-halobenzyl)thio]phenyl}-1,3,4-oxadiazoles and investigated for anticonvulsant activities. Maximal Electroshock and pentylenetetrazole- induced lethal convulsion tests showed that some of the synthesized compounds had significant anticonvulsant activity³².

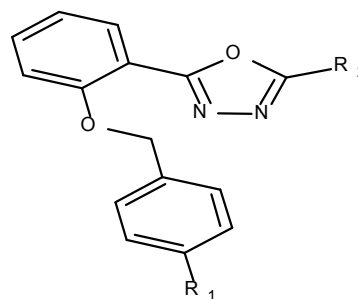


c Sadaf Jamal Gilanil *et al.*, 2009 synthesized a series of Isonicotinic acid hydrazide (INH) incorporated derivatives of thiazolidin-4-one azetidin-2-one and 1,3,4-oxadiazole. The anticonvulsant activity of all the

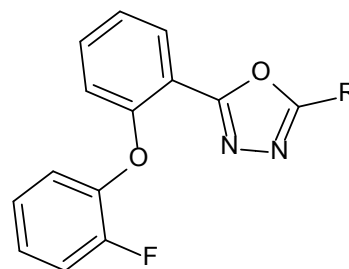
synthesized compounds was evaluated against maximal electroshock induced seizures (MES) and subcutaneous pentylenetetrazole (scPTZ) induced seizure models in mice. All the compounds were active in MES and a majority of compounds were active in scPTZ test. All compounds were less neurotoxic than the standard drug phenytoin³³.



d. Zarghi Afshin *et al.*, 2008 synthesized a series of new 2-substituted-5-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazoles and evaluated as anticonvulsant agents. Some compounds showed considerable anticonvulsant activity both in PTZ and MES models³⁴.



e. Almasirad *et al.*, 2004 synthesized a series of 2-substituted-5-[-2-fluorophenoxy]phenyl]-1,3,4-oxadiazoles and 1,2,4-triazoles and found to possess considerable anticonvulsant activity in PTZ and MES models³⁵.

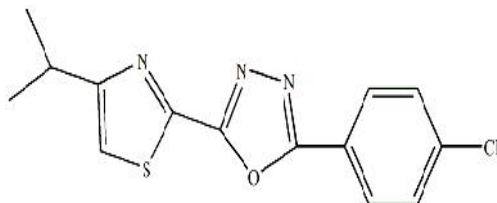


Antimicrobial Activity

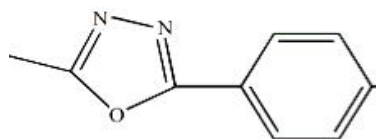
Antimicrobials kill or inhibit the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi and protozoans. Antimicrobial drugs are selective and kill microbes (microbiocidal) or prevent their growth (microbiostatic). The 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives have shown significant antimicrobial activity against a wide range of microorganisms like fungi, gram +ve and gram -ve bacteria.

a. Kumar *et al.*, 2010 synthesized some novel 2-substituted-5-[isopropylthiazole]substituted 1,3,4-Oxadiazoles

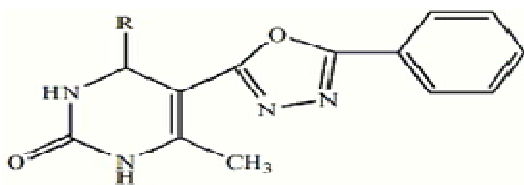
(Compound a and b) and tested for antimicrobial activity by broth microdilution method. Among the various synthesized compounds (a) showed improved antibacterial activity against Gram-positive bacteria i.e. *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus faecalis*, *Bacillus subtilis* and compound (b) having *p*-methoxy substitution showed



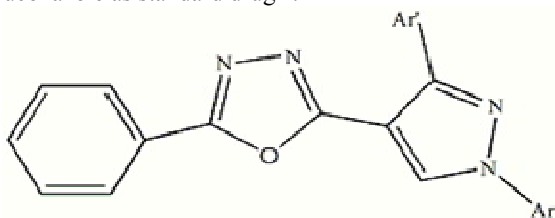
b. Patel Navin *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series 3-(1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-yl) quinoxaline-4-(3H)-ones and tested their in vitro antimicrobial activity. The antimicrobial activity was examined against gram +ve bacteria *S. aureus* and gram -ve bacteria *A. niger* using the broth micro-dilution method.³⁷



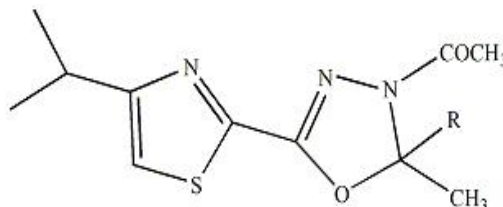
c. Mishra *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series of Oxadiazoles and then final compounds were tested for their antimicrobial activity by cup and plate method. Among the tested compound (a) showed promising antibacterial activity against Gram +ve bacteria i.e. *Streptococcus pneumonia* and compound (b) showed promising antibacterial activity against Gram -ve bacteria i.e. *Escherichia coli* as compared to standard drugs Ofloxacin and Levofloxacin.³⁸



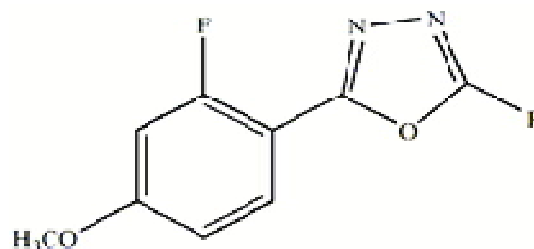
d. Prakash *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series of novel unsymmetrical 2, 5-disubstituted 1, 3, 4-Oxadiazoles and then the final compounds were tested for their antibacterial and antifungal activities. Among the tested compounds, compound a, b showed maximum antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and was compared with ciprofloxacin as standard drug. Compound c, d showed maximum inhibition against both of the fungi *Aspergillus niger* and *Aspergillus flavus* and was compared with Fluconazole as standard drug.³⁹



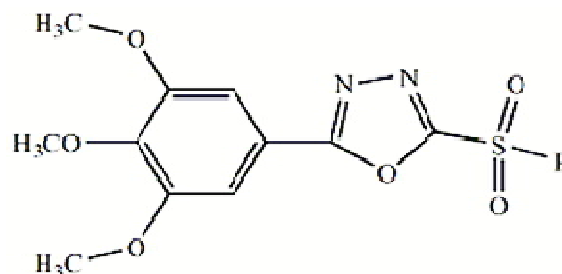
excellent antifungal activity against *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Aspergillus niger*. Compound (c) exhibited good inhibition against Gram-positive bacteria. These tested compounds were compared with standard drugs i.e. Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin, Flucanazole³⁶



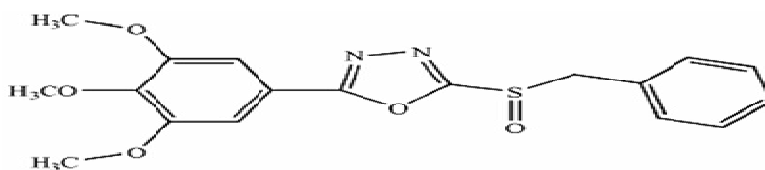
e. Chandrakantha *et al.*, 2010 synthesized some novel 2-flouro-4-methoxyphenyl substituted 1,3,4-Oxadiazole derivatives and screened them for antimicrobial activity by serial dilution method. Among the various synthesized compounds, (a), (b) showed excellent antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and (c), (d) showed excellent antifungal activity against *Candida albicans*. Compounds tested for antibacterial activity was compared with standard drug Furacin and for antifungal activity standard drug was Flucanazol⁴⁰.



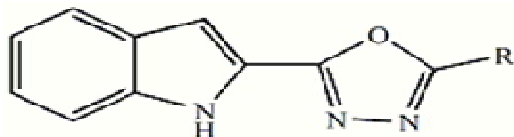
f. Chen *et al.*, 2007 synthesized 5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2-sulfonyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives and tested for their antifungal activity against *Gibberellazae*, *Botrytis cinerea*, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*. Among the tested compounds 15a and 15b exhibiting promising antifungal activities even better than that of the commercial fungicide Hymexazol⁴¹



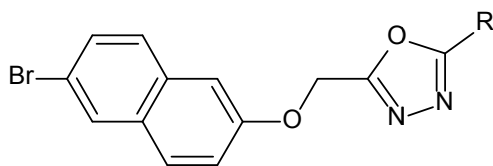
g. Liu *et al.*, 2008 synthesized sulfoxide derivatives containing tri-methoxyphenyl substituted 1,3,4-Oxadiazole moiety and tested for their antifungal activity. Among the tested compounds, compound (a) was found to be more active against *Gibberellazae*, *F. oxysporum* and *C. mandshurica* than other ones. Hymexazol was used as standard drug.⁴²



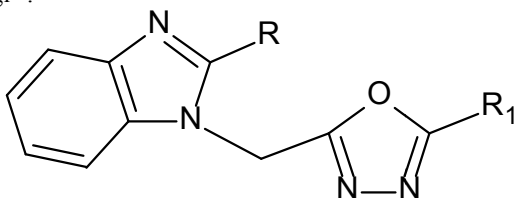
h. Bhardwaj *et al.*, 2009 synthesized 1,3,4-Oxadiazoles and tested for their antimicrobial activity on different strains. A total of four compounds were synthesized, out of those only three found to be active against bacterial strains *i.e* *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and none of the compound were found to be effective against fungal strains. Standard Drug used were Norfloxacin and Fluconazole⁴³.



i. Anil N. Mayekar *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series of new 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives having 6-bromonaphthalene moiety. A series of 2-[[6-bromo-2-naphthyl]oxy]methyl]-5-aryl-1,3,4-oxadiazoles and 2-[[6-bromo-2-naphthyl]oxy]methyl]-5-[(alkyl/aryl)thio]-1,3,4-oxadiazoles were synthesized. The newly synthesized compounds were characterized by analytical and spectral data. Antimicrobial activities of these compounds were carried out and some of them have exhibited good antimicrobial activity⁴⁴.

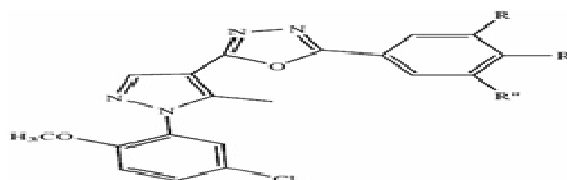


j K.F. Ansari *et al.*, 2009 synthesized 2-substituted-1-[[5-Substituted alkyl/aryl]-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole. The structures of the synthesized compounds were evaluated by spectral and elemental methods of analyses. All the synthesized compounds were screened for their antimicrobial activities. All of the derivatives showed good activity towards Gram-positive bacteria and negligible activity towards Gram-negative bacteria. Some of the synthesized compounds showed moderate activity against tested fungi⁴⁵.



k Rai *et al.*, 2009 synthesized 2-[1-(5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl)-5-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-5-(substituted phenyl)-[1,3,4-oxadiazoles] and tested for their

antibacterial activity. From the tested compounds, compound (a) which is unsubstituted showed significant activity against *Bacillus subtilis* and moderate activity against *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*. Fluorine incorporated in phenyl ring (b,c) of 1,3,4-oxadiazole showed improved activity against both Gram +ve bacteria *i.e* *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and Gram -ve bacteria *i.e* against *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*. These compounds were compared with Ampicillin as standard drug⁴⁶

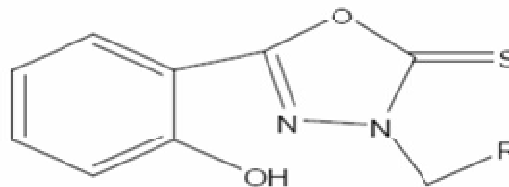


a: R = R' = R'' = H, b: R = R'' = H, R' = F, c: R = F, R' = R'' = H

Antitumor/Anticancer Activity

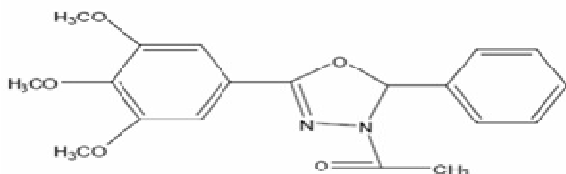
Tumors occur when cells division becomes uncontrolled in the body. Typically, cell division is strictly controlled. New cells are created to replace older ones or to perform new functions. Cells that are damaged or no longer needed die to make room for healthy replacements. If this balance is disturbed, a tumour may form. Problems with the body's immune system can lead to tumours. Treatment varies based on: the type of tumour, whether it is noncancerous or cancerous, and its location. A variety of antitumoral drugs are currently in clinical use. The search for antitumoral drugs led to the discovery of several 1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives having antitumoral activity

a Ahmed S. Aboraia *et al.*, 2006 synthesized series of 5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-3-substituted-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-thione derivatives and evaluated for their in vitro anticancer activity. These compounds have been selected for a full anticancer screening against a 60-cell panel assay where they showed non-selective broad spectrum and promising activity against all cancer cell lines. The active members in this study compared to 5-fluorouracil and cyclophosphamide as reference drugs, respectively⁴⁷.

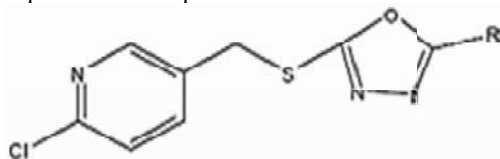


b Linhong Jin *et al.*, 2006 synthesised some 3-acetyl-2-substituted-phenyl-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives and studied their antiproliferative activities against some cancer cells in vitro by MTT method. Among them, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f, 3l, and

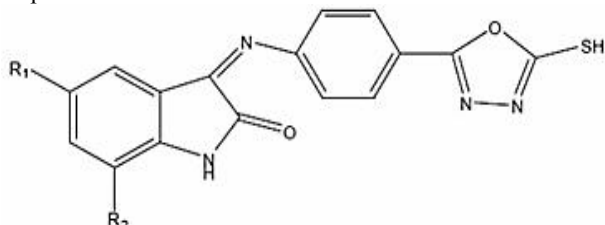
3m were highly effective against PC3 cells and 2a, 2c, and 2f showed moderate activities against Bcap37 and BGC823 cells. The IC₅₀ values of high active compounds 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f, 3l, and 3m against PC3 cells were 0.2, 1.8, 0.2, 1.2, 1.7, and 0.3 μM, respectively⁴⁸.



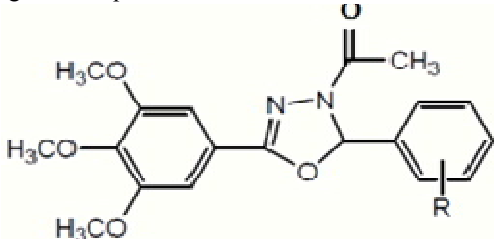
c. Qing-Zhong Zheng *et al.*, 2010 synthesized a series of new 2-chloropyridine derivatives possessing 1,3,4-oxadiazole moiety. Antiproliferative assay results indicated that compounds exhibited the most potent activity against gastric cancer cell SGC-7901, which was more potent than the positive control ethidium bromide⁴⁹.



d. Rajyalakshmi Gudipati *et al.*, 2011 synthesised a series of 5- or 7-substituted 3-{4-(5-mercapto-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)phenylimino}-indolin-2-one derivatives by treating 5-(4-aminophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole-2-thiol with different isatin derivatives. All the synthesized derivatives were screened for anticancer activity against HeLa cancer cell lines using MTT assay. All the synthetic compounds produced a dose dependant inhibition of growth of the cells. The IC₅₀ values of all the synthetic test compounds were found between 10.64 and 33.62 μM. The potency (IC₅₀ values) of anticancer activity of compounds was comparable with that of known anticancer agent, Cisplatin⁵⁰.

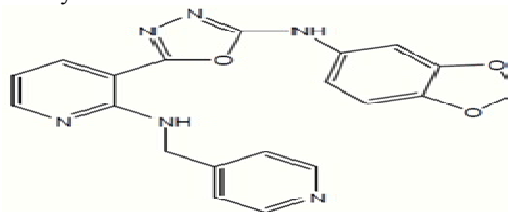


e. Baoan Song *et al.*, 2006 synthesized some 3-acetyl-2-substituted phenyl-5-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)-2,3-dihydro-1,3,4-oxadiazole derivatives. Most of the synthesized compounds were found highly active against PC3 cancer cells and some were found moderately active against Bcap37 and BGC823 cells⁵¹.



f. Xiaohu Ouyang *et al.*, 2006 synthesized some oxadiazoles derivatives and evaluated them for their

ability to inhibit tubulin polymerization and to arrest mitotic division of tumour cells. Among the synthesized compounds, compound (a) showed potent activity⁵²



Compound (a)

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