



A narrative review of botanical characteristics, phytochemistry and pharmacology of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones

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Abstract: *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (family Caprifoliaceae) is a small perennial herb with multiple pharmacological activities for centuries. This review focuses on the elaborate analysis of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones regarding botanical characteristics, phytochemistry and pharmacology. Valepotriates and flavonoids are the major bioactive compounds mainly isolated from the roots/rhizomes. Both the major chemical constituents and different extracts of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones are shown to possess the neuroprotective, antidepressant, anti-tumor, gastrointestinal, cytotoxic, anti-virus, antioxidant, sedative and other activities. This review could be helpful to provide a strong bolster for a promising natural resource of drugs for the treatment of various diseases and a long term development in exploring highlighted area. Crude plant of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones contains various compounds and a wide range of pharmacological activities. However, further studies are warranted to illuminate the mechanisms responsible for these activities at the molecular levels. Moreover, novel methods and technology should be utilized to explore more components with latent bioactivities.

Keywords: *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones; bioactive compounds; phytochemistry; pharmacology

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Introduction

The plant of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (family Caprifoliaceae), a perennial medicinal herb, is endemic to provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Shanxi in China and Himalaya of India, and it is also found in Ghutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar and North America. It is well known as “Zhizhu Xiang” and “Mati Xiang” in China, “Tagar” and “Indian valerian” in India (1,2). Due to the characteristics of being dioecious, polygamous or polygamomonoecious, the species reproduces sexually or asexually (3,4). As a member of Caprifoliaceae family, *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones has a long history of application in Europe and has been extensively used as medicine and

spice. Therefore, medicinal application of this herb is now officially listed in the Chinese, Indian, British and European Pharmacopoeia. The roots/rhizomes of this plant have been widely utilized as a conventional medicine treating various diseases such as anxiety disorder, tranquilizing hypnotic, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), epilepsy, snake poisoning and hyperlipidemia (4-10). As a main raw ingredient of the health product Tagara, this herb is a major component for the treatment of depressive insomnia clinically (11). It is also an important material of clinical experiential prescription Antianxietic Compound Prescription Capsule (ACPC) in China, composed of Zhizhu Xiang, Albizia cortex, Ziziphi Spinosae Semen Tostum and Junci Medulla (12). Apart from ACPC, Compound Mati Xiang Keli (composed of

Mati Xiang, *Atractylodes Lancea* (Thunb.) DC, *Asarum sieboldii* Miq., *Artemisia argyi*, *Amomum kravanh* Pierre ex Gagnep., *Euryale ferox* Salisb. ex DC, *Alisma plantago-aquatica* Linn. and garden ginger, *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill.) and *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones decoction have been applied for the treatment of pediatric rotavirus enteritis (PRE) and can help to improve clinical efficacy through reducing the level of inflammatory indicators in infants (13-15). Of note, unlimited removal of this natural resources from the wild mainly for trade values resulted in a rapid reduction of the plants from the natural environment and thus was listed into the “endangered” category in India and Pakistan (16,17). And it would be soon to get noticed that the herb will be not in sustainable harvesting to satisfy demand. Therefore, *in vitro* propagation for large scale reproduction has been a replaceable method for commercial multiplication as well as conservation (16).

Among the complex chemical compositions of the plant, valepotriates and flavonoids are the major bioactive chemical constituents of roots/rhizomes. In addition, flavonoid, essential oil composition, sesquiterpenoids, lignin and polyphenols are also isolated from the species, which possess different bioactivities (10,18-22). Thus far, despite the popular clinical use of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones, scientific evidences are not clarified to identify the effective chemical constituents responsible for the multiple biological activities. The quality control of the Zhizhu Xiang crude drugs is still to be improved and the medicinal potential of the isolated compounds from this herb has not been fully demonstrated yet. A narrative review of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones could be useful for researchers, policymakers and manufacturers to achieve better conservation, management and obtain a holistic view of this important herbaceous plant.

As an important herbal medicine with great potential to be explored, another work such as the exact mechanism of how the bioactive compounds exert therapeutic effect on specific diseases and proper application of polyherbal combination should be studied further. Herein, this review mainly focuses on the elaborate analysis of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones regarding botanical characteristics, phytochemistry, and pharmacology.

We present the following article in accordance with the Narrative Review reporting checklist (available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/lcm-20-54>).

Materials and methods

The literature of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones published

from 1979 to March 2020 were collected from databases including PubMed, Elsevier, Web of Science, and China Network Knowledge Infrastructure, Google Scholar and Baidu Scholar. *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones, Valerianae Rhizoma, Zhizhu Xiang, Mati Xiang, *Valeriana wallichii* DC., Tagar, Mushkbala and Indian valerian were used as the key words.

Botanical characteristics

Valeriana jatamansi Jones is a perennial herb, 20–70 cm high, with specific aroma and mostly fibrous roots. Stems are usually branched and densely pubescent. The rhizomes are transverse, thick and lumpy, with dense internodes, and the petiole residues are tan. Its basal leaves are developed, the leaves are round to ovate, 2–10 cm long and 1.5–8 cm wide, the apex is short, sharp or dull, and the base is heart-shaped, the edge is microwave-shaped or has sparse denticles with short fluff, dark green on the top, light green on the bottom, all pubescent, 5–9 basal veins (23). Cauline leaves are undeveloped, with 2–3 pairs per stem and the lower part being heart-shaped round, nearly sessile, and the upper part being evergreen crack and sessile. Inflorescences are terminal cymes, bracts and bracteoles are rhombus-shaped. The corollas, 6 mm in length, are white and slightly reddish. There are 3 stamens inserted in the middle of corolla tube, pistils are protruding out of corolla with 3-lobed columnar, and the ovary is inferior. Bisexual flowers are larger, with 3–4 mm long (24,25). What's more, the pistil and stamens are protruding from the corolla with equal length. Achenes are long-ovate, around 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, with both sides having pubescence. The flowering period occurs from May to July and the fruit are harvested from June to September (26). It is a shade loving herb and often cultivated in the humid and fertile soil, such as the grassland, forest, shrub, gully grassland, stream side, etc. and it can also be found on the top of the mountain below 3,000 m above sea level (27,28).

Bioactive compounds

Crude plant of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones contains flavonoids (29,30), valepotriates (2,31,32), flavone glycosides (21), essential oils (22,33,34), lignans (35), phenolic compounds (20,36,37), sesquiterpenoids (38,39), bakkenollide type sesquiterpenoids (40), sesquiterpenoid glycosides (41) and other phytochemicals. Among them, valepotriates and flavonoids are the major compounds mainly isolated from

the roots/rhizomes. The bioactivities of the major bioactive compounds and extracts of the herb are summarized in *Table 1* and *Table 2*, respectively. They possess a broad spectrum of biochemical properties such as anti-oxidant (45,94), anti-inflammatory (86,90), neuroprotective (50,88), anti-virus (14,84), antidepressant (78,115), anti-tumor (51,52), gastrointestinal (7,116,117) and other activities. A great attention was paid to scientifically demonstrate links between the contents and the extracts of this herb. Among them, valtrate (8,45-47,54,67), acevaltrate (45-48), baldrinal (45,49), didrovaltrate (52,53) and 11-ethoxyviburtinal (7,44) are the most potent ingredients in treatment of various diseases like IBS, antispasmodic, analgesic, etc. As for another component, 6-methylapigenin and hesperidin (flavonoids) (30,118), as well as valeranone (sesquiterpenoids) (54) could predominantly affect the brain including regulating GABA_A receptor and CNS. However, the chemical composition of volatile oil varies on the basis of the natural habitat as well as the extract methods used (119). It should be noteworthy that patchouli alcohol was the superior chemotype of the essential oil among three different countries in Europe (120). The results are in concordance with previous reports indicating that patchouli alcohol and maaliol were the top two superior chemotypes with the evidence of the plant grown in India (20,22,96,121). Conversely, plant material originated from the southwestern China was indicated that terpenoids are the rich constituents of the essential oil (122). Current research on patchouli alcohol chemotype essential oil demonstrated its remarkable functions of antioxidant properties *in vitro* and analgesic action *in vivo* (20,99). However, the exact mechanisms of chemical compounds mentioned above are still unknown due to the preliminary bioactivities *in vitro*.

Pharmacological effects

The roots/rhizomes of this herbaceous plant have been used in conventional medicine as an alternative drug for a long history. In traditional medicine, *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones is widely utilized to treat depression, neurosis, sciatica, hysteria and is potential to be treated as an alternative to tranquilizer (92,123). A great number of literature has been reported on the pharmacological effects of different extracts of this herb, including water, ethanol and dichloromethane extract, and the major bioactive compounds such as valerian, 11-ethoxyviburtinal, IVHD-valtrate and hesperidin. The results of different research could be challenging to be

summarized or compared with each other regarding the complexity and diversity of variant experimental models conducted.

Neuroprotective activities

Four bakkenolide-type sesquiterpenes and jatairidoids A-C (acylated iridoids), derived from the roots of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones, could exert great neuroprotective effects through inhibiting the dopaminergic neuroblastoma SH-SY5Y neuronal cell death over 77.2%, compared with the positive control guanosine (less than 60%) (40,57). Another study reported compounds isolated from the roots and rhizomes including isopatrinoside, (4b,8b)-8-methoxy-3-methoxy-10-methylene-2,9-dioxatricyclo[4.3.1.0^{3,7}]decan-4-ol, vibutinal, (1S,3R,5R,7S,8R,9S)-3,8-epoxy-1-O-ethyl-5-hydroxyvalerolone exhibited apparent neuroprotective effects on the neuronal death of rat pheochromocytoma (PC12) cells induced by CoCl₂ (41,42,50). Moreover, the results of administration of the rhizomes extract and its isolate valeric acid revealed that both of the administration could decrease lipid peroxidation and reduce GSH in brains compared to normal rats. It is noteworthy that the effect of improving memory with the administration of valeric acid (40 mg/kg) was significant compared with the rhizomes extract in morris water maze test and elevated plus maze test. The results might validate the fact of neuroprotective potentiality of the herb and its component valeric acid in ameliorating memory cognition and retention in model dementia rats (65). Similarly, the aqueous extract of the whole plant was shown to moderately inhibit cerebral injury in global cerebral ischaemia mice with 14.9% cerebral infarct size as compared to control group mice (34.2%), suggesting its role playing in neuroprotective effect (104). What's more, another study on orally administration of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones rhizome extract (VRE) in MPTP-induced Parkinson's disease (PD) mice was performed. Based on the results of alteration of striatal dopamine, TH protein and tyrosine hydroxylase levels, amelioration of LPO and ROS, improvement of antioxidants levels in PD mice, it was effectively demonstrated that neuroprotective effect of VRE might be possibly achieved through its ability to improve the antioxidant activities and to attenuate neuroinflammation (88). As a potential analgesic agent, the attention of N-type and T-type calcium channels was brought into consideration. It was firstly found that isolated compounds valeriananoid A, velerivaltrate A, didrovaltra tisovaleroloxhydroin, valtrate and acevaltrate could not

Table 1 Summary of major chemical constituents isolated from *Valeriana jatamansi* jones

Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
Valepotriates					
	1	(1R,3R,5R,7S,8R,9S)-3,8-epoxy-1-O-methyl-5-hydroxyvalechlorine	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)
	2	(1S,3R,5R,7S,8R,9S)-3,8-epoxy-1-O-ethyl-5-hydroxyvalechlorine	Roots	Potential neuroprotective effects	(42)
	3	(4 β ,8 β)-8-methoxy-3-methoxy-10-methylene-2,9-dioxatricyclo[4.3.1.0(3,7)]decan-4-ol	Roots	Potential neuroprotective effects/ cytotoxicity against lung and gastric cancer cells	(42)
	4	1,5-dihydroxy-3,8-epoxyvalechlorine	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(43)
	5	11-ethoxyviburtinal	–	Irritable Bowel Syndrome	(7,44)
	6	1- β acevaltrate	–	Antioxidant activity	(45)
	7	5-hydroxydidrovaltrate	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	8	acevaltrate	Roots and Rhizomes/Whole plants	Antioxidant activity/Ca v 2.2 and Ca v 3.1 calcium channel inhibitors/ Cytotoxicity	(45-48)
	9	baldrinal	–	Irritable Bowel Syndrome	(49)

Table 1 (continued)

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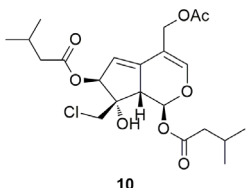
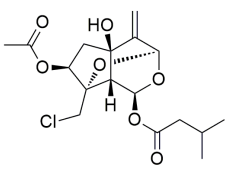
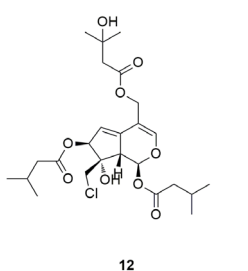
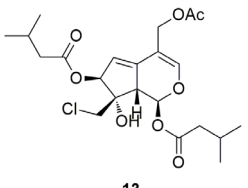
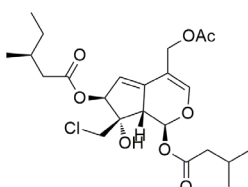
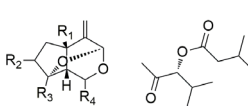
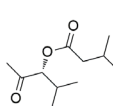

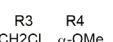
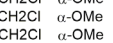
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
	10	chlorovaltrate	Roots/Whole plants	Neuroprotective effect/Cytotoxicity	(31,43)
	11	chlorovaltrate A	Roots and Rhizomes	Neuroprotective effect/Cytotoxicity	(31,50)
	12	chlorovaltrate K	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(31)
	13	chlorovaltrate M	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(31)
	14	chlorovaltrate N	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(31)
	15	chlorovaltrate P	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)
	16	chlorovaltrate Q	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)
	17	chlorovaltrate R	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)
	18	chlorovaltrate S	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)
	19	chlorovaltrate T	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(42)

Table 1 (continued)

	R1	R2	R3	R4
15	H	β-OH	CH2Cl	α-OMe
16	OH	β-OH	CH2Cl	α-OMe
17	H	β-OH	CH2Cl	α-OMe
18	OH	β-OAc	O-liv	α-OMe
19	OH	β-OH	CH2OH	α-OEt

Table 1 (continued)

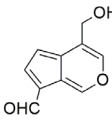
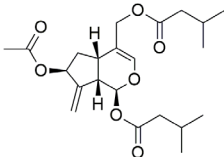
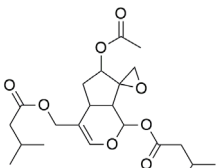
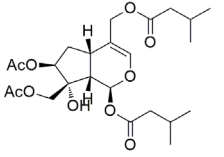
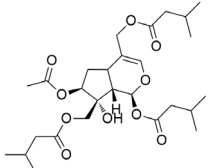
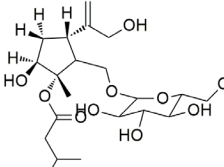
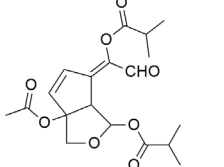
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
 20	20	desacylbaldrinol	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(18)
 21	21	desoxidodidrovaltrate	Roots and Rhizomes	Cytotoxicity	(18,51)
 22	22	didrovaltrate	–	Antispasmodic effects/Anti-hepatoma	(52,53)
 23	23	didrovaltrate acetoxo hydrin	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
 24	24	didrovaltratisovaleroxyloxyhydrin	Roots and Rhizomes	Ca _v 2.2 and Ca _v 3.1 calcium channel inhibitors	(47)
 25	25	isopatrinoside	Roots	Neuroprotective activity	(41)
 26	26	isovaltral	Roots and Rhizomes	Cytotoxicity	(48)

Table 1 (continued)

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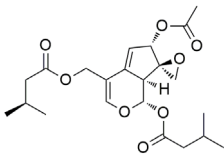
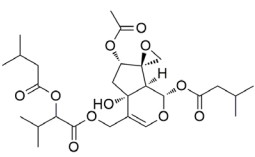
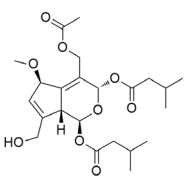
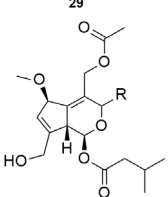
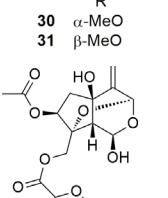
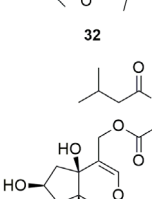
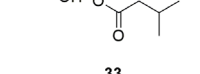
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
 <p>27</p>	27	isovaltrate	Roots and Rhizomes	Antispasmodic effects/Cytotoxicity	(48,54)
 <p>28</p>	28	IVHD-valtrate	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity/ Anti-Ovarian Cancer	(46,55)
 <p>29</p>	29	jatadoid A	–	Neuroprotective effect	(56)
 <p>30</p>	30	jatairidoid A	–	Neuroprotective effect	(57)
 <p>31</p>	31	jatairidoid B	–	Neuroprotective effect	(57)
 <p>32</p>	32	jatairidoid C	–	Neuroprotective effect	(57)
 <p>33</p>	33	jatamandoid A	–	Neuroprotective effect	(58)

Table 1 (continued)

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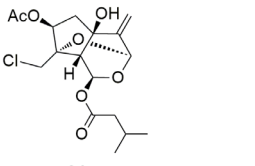
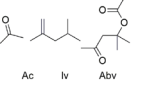
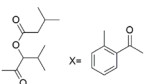

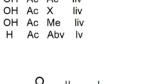
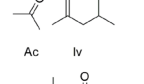
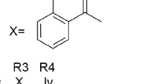
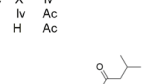
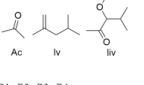
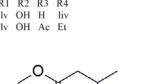
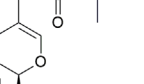
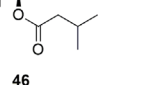
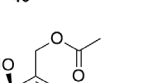
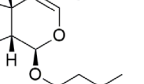
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
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34					
	35	jatamanvaltrate A	Whole plants/ Roots and Rhizomes	Cytotoxicity/Neuroprotective effect	(46,50)
	36	jatamanvaltrate B	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	37	jatamanvaltrate D	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	38	jatamanvaltrate F	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	39	jatamanvaltrate G	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity/Neuroprotective effect	(46,58)
	40	jatamanvaltrate H	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity/Neuroprotective effects	(46,56)
	41	jatamanvaltrate I	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	42	jatamanvaltrate J	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	43	jatamanvaltrate K	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	44	jatamanvaltrate L	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	45	jatamanvaltrate M	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(46)
	46	jatamanvaltrate P	Roots and Rhizomes	Anti-breast cancer	(60)
	47	jatamanvaltrate P	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(61)
47					

Table 1 (continued)

Table 1 (continued)

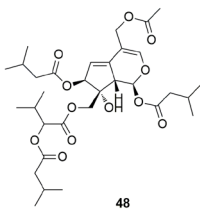
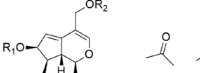
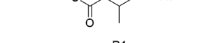
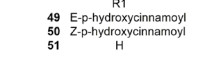
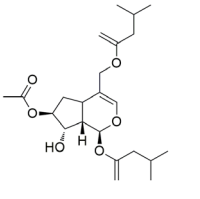
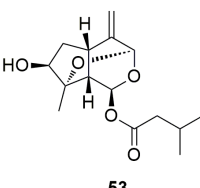
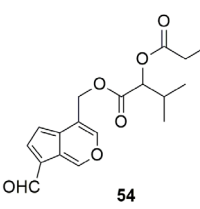
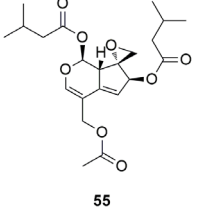
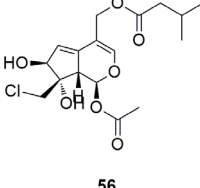
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
	48	jatamanvaltrate T	Roots and Rhizomes	Ca _v 2.2 calcium channel inhibitors	(62)
	49	jatamanvaltrate X	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(61)
	50	jatamanvaltrate Y	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(61)
	51	nardostachin	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(61)
	52	rupesin B	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(31)
	53	rupesin E	Roots and Rhizomes	Inhibition of glioma stem cells and NO production	(59)
	54	valejatanin A	Roots	Cytotoxicity	(63)
	55	valeportiate	Roots	Anxiolytic activity/ Anti-epileptic effects	(6,64)
	56	valeriandoid A	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(43)

Table 1 (continued)

Table 1 (continued)

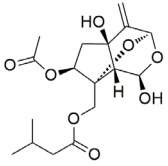
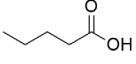
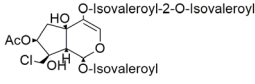
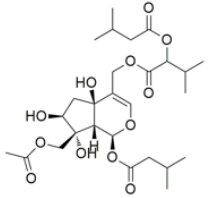
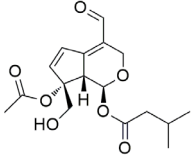
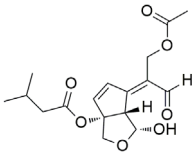
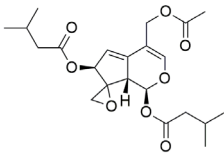
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
	57	valeriandoid C	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(43)
	58	valeric acid	Rhizomes	Treating dementia	(65)
	59	valeriotetrate C	Roots and Rhizomes	Neuroprotective effect	(50)
	60	valeriotriate B	–	Neuroprotective effect	(58)
	61	valjtrate E	Roots and Rhizomes	Anti-invasion and Anti-metastasis effects	(66)
	62	valtral C	Roots and Rhizomes	Akt/mTOR activation blockade/ Cytotoxicity	(18,51)
	63	valtrate	Whole plants/Roots and Rhizomes	Antispasmodic effects /Cytotoxicity/ Anti-HIV/Antioxidant activity/Ca _v 2.2 and Ca _v 3.1 calcium channel inhibitors/ Anti-breast cancer/Anxiolytic effect/ Anti-KREBS II ascitic tumor	(8,45-47, 54,67)

Table 1 (continued)

Table 1 (continued)

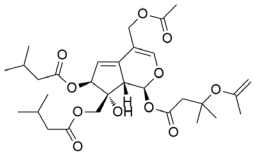
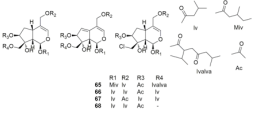
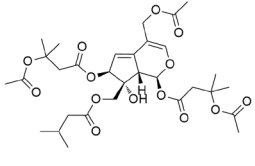
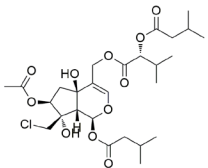
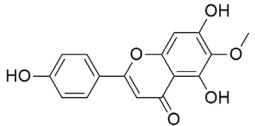
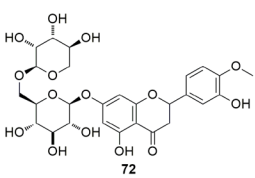
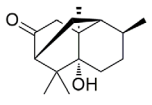
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
	64	valtrate hydrin B8	Roots and Rhizomes	Ca _v 2.2 calcium channel inhibitors	(62)
	65-68	valtrates 6-9	Rhizomes	Anti-leishmanicidal activity	(68)
	69	velerivaltrate A	Roots and Rhizomes	Ca _v 2.2 and Ca _v 3.1 calcium channel inhibitors	(47)
	70	volvaltrate B	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(69)
Flavonoids					
	71	4',5',7-trihydroxy-6-methylapigenin	–	Anxiolytic properties	(30)
	72	hesperidin	–	Sleep-enhancing properties	(30)
Sesquiterpenoids					
	73	valeriananoid A	Roots and Rhizomes	Ca _v 2.2 and Ca _v 3.1 calcium channel inhibitors	(47)

Table 1 (continued)

Table 1 (continued)

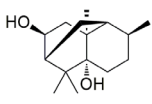
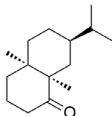
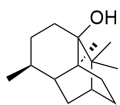
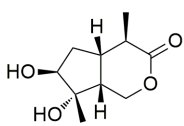
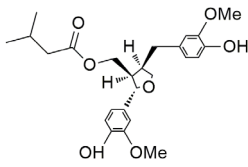
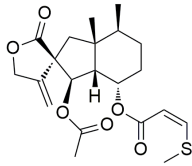
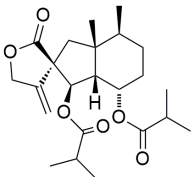
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
 74	74	valeriananoid B	Roots and Rhizomes	Antirotavirus	(39)
 75	75	valeranone	–	Antispasmodic effect	(54)
Sesquiterpenoid glycoside					
 76	76	8-acetoxyl-pathchouli alcohol	Roots	Antibacterial activity	(63)
 77	77	vibutinal	Roots	Neuroprotective activity	(41)
Lignans					
 78	78	(+)-9'-isovaleroxy lariciresinol	–	Cytotoxicity	(35)
bakkenolides					
 79	79	bakkenolide D	Roots and Rhizomes	Neuroprotective effect	(50)
 80	80	Bakkenolide H	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(40)

Table 1 (continued)

Table 1 (continued)

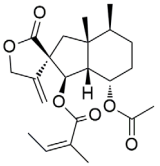
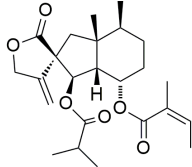
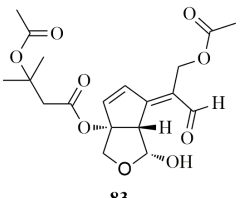
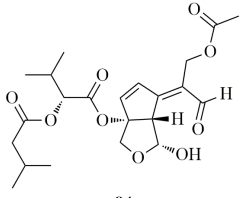
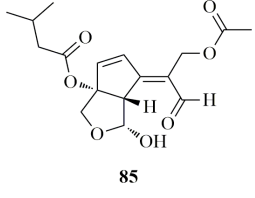
Structures	No.	Chemicals	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
 <p>81</p>	81	valerilactone A	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(40)
 <p>82</p>	82	valerilactone B	Roots	Neuroprotective effect	(40)
Decomposition products					
 <p>83</p>	83	valtral A	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(70)
 <p>84</p>	84	valtral B	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(70)
 <p>85</p>	85	valtral C	Whole plants	Cytotoxicity	(70)

Table 2 Major pharmacological effects of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones extracts

Extracts	sub-fraction	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
Ethanol extract	–	Roots and Rhizomes	Blood lipid/Liver function/Anti-anxiety effect	(9,71)
	–	Whole plants	Pentylentetrazol-induced convulsion/Regulation of apoptosis-related genes expression	(72,73)
	–	Rhizomes	Spasmolytic activity	(74)
	–	–	Anti-anxiety/Anti-convulsion/Regulation of apoptosis-related genes expression/Proliferation inhibition and Anti-metastasis	(73,75-77)
	ethyl acetate fraction	–	Cardiac Depressant Activity	(78)
Hydroalcoholic extract	–	Leaves	Anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory activities	(79)
	–	Roots	Anticonvulsant activity	(80)
	–	Rhizomes	Acute and chronic toxicity/ Liver cirrhosis and tissue hyperproliferative	(81,82)
	–	–	Intestinal absorption characteristics	(83)
Methanolic extract	and its sub-fraction F4	Roots	Antioxidant activity/Oxidative DNA Damage preventive activity and Antioxidant potential/Anti-HCV Activity	(20,84,85)
	and its ethylacetate fraction	Leaves	Anti-inflammatory activity	(86)
	and its chloroform and ethylacetate fractions	Leaves	Enzyme inhibition	(87)
	–	Rhizomes	Parkinson's disease/Anti-inflammatory activity/Anti-Leishmania	(88-90)
Dichloromethane extract	–	Rhizomes	Neurodegeneration	(65)
	–	Roots and Rhizomes	Inhibition of peripheral pain/Antidepressant effect and Acute toxicity/Analgesic action	(91)
Chloroform extract	–	Rhizomes	Anti-Leishmania	(89)
Crude extract	crude extract and subsequent fractions	Leaves	Enzyme inhibition	(87)
	and its chloroform and aqueous fractions	/	Antispasmodic and blood pressure lowering effects	(92)
	–	Rhizomes	Antidiarrhoeal and bronchodilatory	(93)
Essential oil	–	Roots	Antioxidant activity/Insecticidal Activity	(20,94,95)
	–	Leaves and Roots	Antifungal activity	(96)
	–	Roots and Rhizomes	Antinociceptive activity/Antimicrobial activity/Contact toxicity and Repellent efficacy/Inhibition of peripheral pain	(91,97-99)
	–	Whole plants	Pesticidal activity	(37)
	–	Rhizomes	Antioxidant Activity	(36,98)
Hydrodistilled oil	–	Whole plants	Topical anti-inflammatory activity	(100)

Table 2 (continued)

Table 2 (continued)

Extracts	sub-fraction	Plant Part	Bioactivity	Refs
Aqueous extract	–	Roots	Radioprotective property/Sleep-wake profile/Antioxidant and Hepatoprotective activity	(101-103)
	–	Rhizomes	Anti-inflammatory activity	(90)
	–	Whole plants	Alleviating cerebral injury	(104)
Aqueous lyophilized extract	–	Roots	Adaptogenic activity and antioxidant activity	(105)
Acetone extract	chlorophyll extract	Whole plants	Alleviating cerebral injury	(104)
Dried fractions	–	Roots and Rhizomes	Sedative and sleep enhancing properties	(30)
Dry powdered material	–	Rhizomes	Amelioration of primary insomnia	(106)
Water decoction	–	Rhizomes	Gastrointestinal function	(107)
Iridoid-rich fraction	–	Whole plants	Pentylenetetrazol-induced convulsion	(72)
	ethanolic extract	Roots and Rhizomes	Lipid metabolism/Anxiolytic potency	(108,109)
	–	Roots and Rhizomes	Acute and Sub-chronic toxicity	(110)
	–	–	Analgesic,regulation of gastrointestinal	(111)
Flavonoids-rich fraction	methanol extract	Aerial and root portions	Antioxidant activity	(29)
Total flavonoids	ethanolic extract	–	TGF-beta signaling pathway	(112)
Total valeportriate	ethanolic extract	Rhizomes	Anxiolytic activity	(113)
	–	–	Sedative activity	(114)
Total phenolic	methanol extract	Aerial and root portions	Antioxidant activity	(29)

only exhibit antagonistic activities with EC₅₀ values of 7.8, 4.33, 2.70, 2.18 and 1.13 μM, respectively, but could also act as Ca_v2.2 (N type) and Ca_v3.1 (T type) dual-calcium-channel-inhibitor with rough average inhibitory ratio values 60.74% and 36.34%, respectively (47). Later, it was further investigated that ethyl acetate-soluble part of ethanol extract could exhibit the most potent suppression of Ca_v2.2 peak current (20 mV) comparing with H₂O and *n*-BuOH soluble parts. Based on bioassay-guided search, the active constituents Jatamanvaltrate T and valtrate hydrin B8, responsible for Ca_v2.2 N-type voltage-gated calcium channels (VGCCs) inhibitor, were identified to play significant roles as allosteric modulators in mitigating nociception (62).

The isolates from the roots of the plant including

clovane-2β-isovaleroxy-9α-ol, jatamanvaltrates R-Q, valeriananoid A-E, volvaltrate B, valeriotetrate A, valeriotetrate B, 8, 11-desoidodidrovaltrate, rupesin E and (3S, 4R, 5S, 7S, 8S, 9S)-3, 8-ethoxy-7-hydroxy-4, 8-dimethylperhydrocyclopenta[c] pyran (50 μM) were shown to exhibit acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity suppression ratios less than 10%, indicating that compounds mentioned above might be not the active component on the inhibitory effects of AChE (38). Chloroform and ethyl acetate fractions of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones leaves were active against AChE and butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) enzymes with IC₅₀ values 61 and 58 μg/mL, respectively (87). Likewise, primary AChE inhibition assay on the essential oil was implied that only *cis*-ocimene showed strong AChE suppression activity (87.5%), followed

with benzaldehyde (20.2%), acetophenone (19.5%), styrene (19.4%), as well as benzylalcohol (11.3%) (124).

Antidepressant and antianxiety activities

The antidepressant activity of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones is mainly attributed to the bioactive compounds iridoids, flavonoid, valepotriates and essential oil composition. The ethanol extract and total valepotriate from roots and rhizomes were revealed to play a significant role in antianxiety activity and sedation and hypnogenesis. And after the animals being orally administrated with valtrate (for 10 d), serum corticosterone (CS) and the brain hippocampal tissue in the neurotransmitter 5-serotonin (5-HT), dopamine (DA) and norepinephrine (NE) levels were down-regulated, suggesting that the extract and total valepotriate from the herb could play a role in regulation of anxiety through thalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis system and are presumed to be potential anxiolytic drug (8,113). A similar research on the ethanol extract also showed a significant reduction of 5-HT, NE and DA level in Sprague Dawley (SD) rats (77). Administration of SD rats with 0.3, 0.6 and 0.9 g/kg everyday of 95% ethanol extract i.p. significantly decreased the percentage of entrance into the open arm (OE%) and remaining in the open arm (OT%), as compared with the group injected with estazolam. At the meantime, five apoptosis-related genes expression were detected, the results implied that the apoptosis-related genes Ets-1, Elk-1, Bax, Apaf-1 and Bcl-2 expression were inconsistently expressed between estazolam-induced anxiety model rats and rats treated by the extract of the plant. Due to the up-regulation of five genes expression, it was inferred that the ethanol extract could be closely associated with the adjustment to a multitude of different cancers under stress (73). To further study the dysfunction of HPA in anxiety model rats, Yan et, al. found that blood β -endorphin (β -EP) and CS levels were higher in the anxiety model group rats than in the normal group, and the expression of HPA axis-related genes corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) and neuropeptide Orexin were down-regulated in rats treated by ethanol extract of roots/rhizomes, suggesting that *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones extract could be involved in exerting effects on dysfunction on HPA axis in anxiety model rats (71).

Iridoid fraction of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (IEFV) (6, 9, 12 mg/kg, for 7 d, p.o.) revealed that IEFV might inhibit the excitability of the central nervous system (CNS) through increasing the GABA level (108). ACPC, a

formula (with 39% *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) for treating anxiety-related diseases clinically in China, was explored to identify the exact molecular mechanism on the roles in the mediation of anxiety. And it was analyzed that ACPC consisted of hesperidin 1.05 mg/g and Jujuboside A 7.50 mg/g (125,126). Treatment of ICR mice with saline or ACPC (4.8 g/kg, for 10 d, i.p.) could slightly prolong the incubation period of convulsion in mice (92.67 ± 4.03 s) but was not statistically different, as compared with the control group (88.67 ± 3.47 s). However, the anti-anxiety effect of diazepam and ACPC was antagonized by flumazenil. And it is known that γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA), a main inhibitory neurotransmitter in the brain, is mainly mediated by GABA-A receptors. GABA-A is simultaneously a receptor antagonist of flumazenil, and can decrease or reverse its effects of anti-anxiety. Therefore, it was indicated that ACPC might exert anti-anxiety effect (but no sedative effects) via benzodiazepine receptors (GABA receptor) (126,127). Likewise, ACPC (3 g/kg) was also capable of increasing OT% as well as OE% of rats in acute stress, reducing the expression of p-ERK1/2 in the hippocampus (1.5 g/kg) and p-ERK1/2 and p-CREB in the cortex and hippocampus (3 g/kg). Moreover, high-dose (3 g/kg) increased the protein level of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in the cortex (0.54 ± 0.06) and hippocampus (0.55 ± 0.05) of rats, as compared to model group (0.37 ± 0.03 and 0.34 ± 0.04 were in the cortex and hippocampus, respectively), suggesting that the mechanism of ACPC anti-anxiety might involve down-regulation of BDNF and ERK/CREB signal pathway (125).

Anti-tumor activities

Desacylbaldrial, valtral C and desoxidodivaltrate isolated from the roots were shown to exert significant selective cytotoxicity against colorectal cancer cell (HCT-116), with moderate IC_{50} values ranged 1.7–9.3 μ M. Particularly, valtral C could significantly inactivate p-PDK1 in a dose-dependent manner and further strongly suppress the downstream signaling proteins p-Akt/mTOR, thus resulted in autophagosome formation in HCT-116 cells (18). Similarly, Valjtrate E was also found to possess anti-metastatic and anti-invasive abilities on human hepatocellular carcinoma cell (HepG2) *in vitro*, with dose-dependently down-regulated secretion of matrix metalloproteinase-2 (MMP-2) and MMP-9, and thus inhibited migration of tumor cells and suppressed MAPK/ERK signaling pathway (66). It has been shown that IVHD-

valtrate, an active derivative of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones, could restrain the growth and proliferation of ovarian cancer cell A2780 and OVCAR-3 via blocking entrance of cells into the cycle in the G2/M phase and could further trigger cell apoptosis. Furthermore, the gene expression of p21, p27, p53 and Rb were up-regulated whereas protein expression of Cdc25C, Cdc2, Cyclin B1, E2F1 and Mdm2 were down-regulated, and the cleavage of PARP and caspases were augmented, implying that IVHD-valtrate might exhibit the effect against ovarian cancer via p53-MDM2 signaling pathway (55). The anti-cancer effects of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones could be associated with its inhibitory effects on invasion and metastasis. A remarkable anti-proliferation effect was observed *in vitro* at 400 µg/mL of ethanol extract with evidence of cell cycle arrest at S and G2/M phases. Moreover, the mobility of colon cancer cell (SW480) was reduced noticeably in the scratch test, with the relative moving distance data 1,166.667±175.5942 compared to blank control 1,816.667±132.2876, suggesting that the ethanol extract could exert inhibition of tumor cells through proliferation and the cell arrest cycle (75). F3, a novel active iridoid ester fraction, was assessed to play a significant role in treatment of breast cancer by inhibiting cell growth through mediation of DNA damage including DNA strand breaks and γ-H2AX activation, and what mentioned above might be related closely with ROS accumulation. Meanwhile, p38/JNK/ERK phosphorylation was activated, indicating that mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) might have relevance to F3-induced cell death (128). At the meantime, it was revealed that the apoptosis-related genes Ets-1, Elk-1, Bax, Apaf-1 and Bcl-2 expression are inconsistently expressed between estazolam-induced anxiety model rats and rats treated by the ethanol extract. Due to the up-regulation of five genes expression, it was inferred that the ethanol extract could be closely associated with the adjustment to a multitude of different cancers under stress (73).

Didrovaltrate, baldrinol and valtrate are derivatives of valepotriates derived from *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones. After adding the same concentration (33 µg/mL) to the hepatoma cells (HTC line), the viability curve revealed that valtrate became approximately 2 times and 8 times more active than didrovaltrate and baldrinol, respectively. Whereas, the dose-response curves indicated that didrovaltrate (66 µg/mL) could lead to cellular mortality of 60% within the first 4 hours of incubation and reach 100% after 7 hours. Furthermore, didrovaltrate (1.25 mg per mouse, i.p.) could induce observably high percent remissions of the

KREBS II ascitic tumors, with the alleviation of the ascites within 48 hours among half of mice and enhancement of a survival time higher than 6 months. In contrast, the mice of control group were all dead within 15±2 d after inoculation of ascetic fluid (52).

Nevertheless, researchers found no significant difference in the body weight in mice administrated with IEFV at a daily dose of 3200 mg/kg during 14 days of the acute toxicity study. The results indicated that 3200 mg/kg was the maximum tolerated dose, which is equal to 2666 times of that of adult clinically. And LD₅₀ value was over 2000 mg/kg body weight. Furthermore, the sub-chronic toxicity study revealed no direct correlation between the hematology and blood biochemical indexes, as well as the toxicity of IRFV and the organ damage (110).

Gastrointestinal disorder

It has been demonstrated for years that *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones possesses remarkable properties of treatment for gastrointestinal disorder caused by human rotavirus (HRV) like autumnal infantile diarrhea, and it has been made into various pharmaceutical drugs including ACPC, Xianrenzhang-Weikang Capsule and Qiuxieling Mixture. A study has showed that the median cytotoxic concentration (CC₅₀) of Qiuxieling Mixture (mainly composed of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) on SA11 rotavirus-infected African green kidney cell (MA104) was determined as 3.62 mg/mL. Nevertheless, effects on suppression of SA11 rotavirus to attack MA104 cells were shown when the concentration range was 1×10⁻⁴ to 10 mg/mL, indicating the role of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones in mitigating rotavirus induced diarrhea among children (129). Oligosaccharides are right under the spotlight due to the properties including anti-virus, anti-inflammation, antitumor and improving immunity, and some research on *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones reported that oligosaccharides appeared to possess the bioactivity of regulating gastrointestinal dysfunction. Verbascoses and galactose were especially rich in this species among 10 oligosaccharides tested, suggesting a sign of its functions of improving intestinal microflora (117). Iridoid (6.23, 12.46, 24.92 mg/kg, for 28 d, i.g.) was helped to decrease the content of 5-HT in serum and colon of chronic stress model rats but was enhanced in hypothalamus. However, a reduction of 5-HT/5-HIAA was observed in serum and colon compared to the model group, suggesting the role of iridoid in treating IBS might be relevant to the mediation of 5-HT from gastrointestinal

to the central nervous system (CNS) (130). Research has showed that *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones-treated tree shrews with diarrhea were all recovered with intestinal villi repaired by degrees and the percentage of recovery is over 95% clinically. The mechanism underlying the treatment might be related to the dysfunction of the immune system, which might be caused by an imbalance between immunocytes and antibodies when infected by virus (13-15,131).

Iridoid 11-ethoxyviburtinal was investigated both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. It was used to suppress an intense relaxation on primary cultured rat colon longitudinal muscle cells with administration of 4.04 mM at 30 s. Moreover, it could also suppress the shrinkage effect induced by 5-HT but NE or acetylcholine (Ach), pointing out its significance and role in direct relaxation on the colon longitudinal muscle cells of rats was mediated by 5-HT but M receptor or β receptor (44). Likewise, 11-ethoxyviburtinal (1.2 mg/kg, i.g.) decreased the number of 5-HT positive immunoreactive colonic enterochromaffin cells (EC) (1.89 ± 0.78) and reduced apparently the number of colonic mast cells (MC) (1.56 ± 0.73) in IBS rats, as compared to model group (3.67 ± 2.01 and 2.78 ± 1.30 were the number of EC and MC, respectively). Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that 11-ethoxyviburtinal may improve IBS symptoms via reducing the number of positive cells in colonic EC, inhibiting the expression of MC activity, decreasing the release of 5-HT and restoring the abnormal peripheral 5-HT level to normal (7).

Anti-virus activities

A study has showed that CC_{50} of Qiuxieling Mixture (mainly composed of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) was determined as 3.62 mg/mL on SA11 rotavirus-infected African green kidney cell (MA104). Nevertheless, effects on suppression of SA11 rotavirus to attack MA104 cells were shown when the concentration range is 1×10^{-4} -10 mg/mL (129).

Furthermore, a novel method bioassay-guided separation was utilized with a fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (*S. pombe*), was helped to separate valtrate (1). Valtrate (1) was found to possess anti-HIV activity in the way of suppressing Rev-transport from the nucleus to cytoplasm. And it displayed 44% inhibition on HIV-1-p24 production at the concentration of 0.5 μ M with no cytotoxicity against the host MT-4 cells, still, it could entirely inhibit the Rev-transport of the fusion protein in *S. pombe* from the nucleus to cytoplasm at the concentration of 3 mg/mL (132). Another similar study reported that the epoxy section

would be the decisive function to display the bioactivity of valtrate (1). Hence another method bioisostere was utilized to search for the bioisosteres of valtrate (1) and thus to search for new anti-HIV agents. In this way, Tamura, S. et, al demonstrated that analog 2 (5,6-dihydrovaltrate), designed by the MO calculation, could entirely inhibit Rev-transport at the concentration of 10 μ M, indicating that this unprecedented mechanism of action would be helpful to explore more potent analogs to inhibit exportation of Rev protein acting as anti-HIV agents (67). Among water, methanol and chloroform extracts, a notable reduction of hepatitis C virus (HCV) replication was found only in Huh-7.5 cells treated with methanol extract of the plant in a dose-dependent manner. Methanolic sub-fraction F4 was indicated to be the most poisonous with CC_{50} value 251.28 ± 0.47 μ g/mL and was observed to suppress HCV by 30%-70% and decrease the expression of NS5B about 50% (84). After applying ACPC (with 39% *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) for treating infants infected with HRV, it was obviously found that serum levels of immunoglobulins and complements were changed. It was observed that CD3%, CD4% and NK cell were increased with potent effect on diarrhea (13). Similarly, another report showed that applying Qiuxieling Mixture (mainly composed of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) for treating infants infected with HRV was helpful to notice apparent change before and after treatment. It was observed that lower levels of serum IgG, IgA, IgM, C3, CD3⁺, CD4⁺, CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio, and higher levels of CD19⁺ and CD8⁺ after treatment with apparently improved immune functions. And it should be noticed that great efficacy (95.3%) were observed after treatment comparing with the normal treatment group with Montmorillonite and Bifidobacterium (79.5%), respectively (131).

Anti-oxidant and anti-microbial activities

There are strong signs of anti-oxidant activities with more unstable constituents isolated from roots and rhizomes of the species. A recent study showed that a comparison between the roots of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones from the natural environment and planted in Indian west Himalaya indicated higher total flavonoids, phenols and apparent antioxidant activity was noted from the planted source, but a less tannin content and antioxidant effect in DPPH (20). In another respect, however, three iridoid valepotriates (acevaltrate, valtrate and 1- β acevaltrate) were performed in a forced degradation study. A reduction

of the capacity of scavenging free radical, cytotoxicity and cell apoptosis were observed after the degradation of the iridoid valepotriates. Thus, it was assumed that conceivable mechanism of antioxidant activities might be related to GABAergic signaling pathways (45). The 50% methanolic extracts obtained from the whole plant showed moderate radical scavenging activity but no prevention of oxidative deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) damage (85). What's more, another study on orally administration of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones rhizome extract (VRE) into PD mice was performed. With the evidence of amelioration of LPO, ROS and improvement of antioxidants levels in PD mice, it was effectively demonstrated that neuroprotective effect of VRE might be possibly achieved through its ability to improve the antioxidant activities and attenuate neuroinflammation (88). Furthermore, ISSR markers were utilized to compare the antioxidant activity with ABTS, DPPH and TRAP among five distantly located populations of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones. The results implied that an apparent variation across the population is found and only 3/97 ISSR markers with high mean genetic diversity (HB8-5, HB12-1 and 17898B-8) were positively related to antioxidant activity in DPPH assay (27).

Valeriana jatamansi Jones and its major compounds possess noteworthy antimicrobial activities. 8-acetoxyl-pathchouli alcohol, a kind of sesquiterpenoid, showed slight inhibitory activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (64 µg/mL minimum inhibitory concentration, MIC) and *Staphylococcus aureus* (128 µg/mL MIC) compared to gentamicin (5 µg/mL MIC), and exhibited the moderate activities against B16 with IC₅₀ value of 31.43 µg/mL compared to cisplatin (15.25 µg/mL) (63). Similarly, the essential oil at the concentration of 400 µg/mL appeared to exhibit antifungal effect against *Microsporium canis* and *Aspergillus flavus* with 50% and 60% inhibition respectively, and to inhibit the growth of *Fusarium solani* to 70%. Notably, essential oils of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones at the concentration of 400 µg/mL showed 70% antifungal activity against *F. solani* (96). The aerial parts with different extracts were shown to exert adverse effects on *S. aureus* (chloroform fraction, 0.27 mg/mL MIC), *Bacillus subtilis* (hexane fraction, 0.31 mg/mL MIC) compared to control imipenem (less than 0.0005 mg/mL MIC), and *M. canis* (crude extract, 0.54 mg/mL, chloroform fraction, 0.36 mg/mL, *n*-Hexane fraction, 0.19 mg/mL) compared to miconazole (0.0001 mg/mL) as well as *A. flavus* (chloroform fraction, 0.69 mg/mL) compared to Amphotericin B (0.0002 mg/mL). And the hexane fraction was found to be the most potential

inhibitor against *M. canis*, with an MIC value of 0.19 mg/mL as compared to miconazole (0.0001 mg/mL) (133). Both Miao nationality medicine compound wolailiu solution (composed of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones, *Cinnamomum cassia* Presl, *Ramulus Mori*, *Pinus armandi* Franch, etc.) exhibited completely inhibitory effect on *S. aureus*, *B. subtilis* and *Candida albicans in vitro* (134). Powder and essential oil of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones exhibited inhibitory effect on *S. aureus* (0.625 mg/mL and 6.25 mg/mL MIC), *B. subtilis* (2.5 mg/mL MIC), *E. coli* (2.5 mg/mL MIC) and *C. albicans* (5 mg/mL MIC) *in vitro* (98,135).

Hepatoprotective activity

One study was reflected that a reduction of serum triglyceride (TG), an increase of serum high-density lipoprotein cholesterol and the slowness of weight gain were observed in hyperlipidemia rats fed with the iridoids rich fraction of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (IRFV) in different dosages (7.5, 15, 30 mg/kg/d, for 20 d). Of note, IRFV activated the expression of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α protein but decreased sterol regulatory element-binding proteins and liver X receptor α protein in the liver to increase the expression of apoprotein A5, and augmented the activities of lipoprotein lipase, hepatic lipase to metabolize more TG to regulate the lipid metabolism to exert its role in hepatoprotective effect (109). Furthermore, the ethanol extract of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones decreased TG level in plasma and liver, total cholesterol level in the liver as well as alanine aminotransferase level in plasma of hyperlipidemia rats, thus confirming the ethanol extract's involvement in hepatoprotective effect against hyperlipidemia (9). Orally administrated with hydroalcoholic extract of the plant for 9 weeks effectively reversed the augmented levels of γ -glutamyl transferase and alkaline phosphatase. And various biochemical markers of hepatic injury were also affected. For instance, serum alkaline phosphatase levels and lipid peroxidation were downregulated, but the effects on glutathione and serum γ -glutamyl transferase were not statistically significant, and drug-metabolizing enzymes xanthine oxidase and Glutathione S-transferase were decreased in treated model rats, thus hydroalcoholic extract were presumed to exert the effect of ameliorating the liver cirrhosis in model rats (82). In addition, administration of the aqueous extract of roots of the species (VJAE) (300, 500 mg/kg, for 7 d, p.o.) in CCl₄-induced hepatotoxicity albino rats was investigated. The histopathological examination results implied that

inflammatory infiltrates and hepatic architecture were disrupted in most of the field with VJAE 300 mg, whereas 500 mg was superior to 300 mg due to the elevated levels of catalase, indicating the antioxidant activity of VJAE was involved in the hepatoprotective activity (101).

Cardiovascular disorder

An experiment *in vitro* presented the results that the mean arterial blood pressure of normotensive anaesthetized rats administrated with the crude ethanol extract of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones rhizome (Vjj.Cr) intravenously was fallen dose-dependently but partially reversed by glibenclamide. Furthermore, a selective and glibenclamide-sensitive relaxation of high K^+ (80 mM)-induced contractions were partially suppressed by the chloroform and aqueous fractions but it was totally suppressed in low K^+ (20 mM)-induced contractions of rabbit aorta preparations, illustrating that blood pressure lowering activities was mediated probably via ATP-dependent K^+ channel activation but not calcium channel blockade, the characteristic of the extract might help treat cardiovascular disorder (92). Another report validated the fact that the ethyl acetate fraction of this plant could reduce the cardiac contractility and frequency, but to a lesser extent in the coronary outflow of the rabbit heart preparation (78).

Analgesic, sedative and antispasmodic activities

Different extracts of the species testing analgesic activity conducted by hot-plate, radiation heat radiation heat stimulation, moving and lifting dual anterior limbs were observed and were compared with the water decoction. The results were inferred that the water decoction could significantly affect analgesia and could positively stimulate the intestinal muscle of rabbits *in vitro*. Nevertheless, a discernible effect of that mentioned above was observed in mother liquor, with a weak activation in 1-butanol section, but an indistinction in acetic ether and petroleum ether section, implying the potential effect of analgesia and gastrointestinal regulation (107). Moreover, flavonoids extract was also shown to exert analgesic activity revealed by the hot-plate and acetic acid writhing test in the intestine of rabbit *in vitro* (111). What's more, 6-methylapigenin (MA), a bioactive flavonoid isolated from the roots and rhizomes, might be acting as tranquilizer with the evidence of its ability to act as a ligand for the benzodiazepine binding sites (118). Moreover, MA and 2S(-)-hesperidin

(HN) were further investigated on their potential sedative and sleep-enhancing properties. However, administration of HN (2 mg/kg, i.p.) in rats exhibited significant improvement on thiopental-induced sleeping time, whereas MA (1 mg/kg) alone was failed to discover its sedative and sleeping-inducing properties but enhanced notably in the combination of HN (2 mg/kg), suggesting MA was potential to enhance the sedative properties of HN (30). In addition, the crude extract of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones rhizome (Vjj.Cr) and its fractions exerted negligible inhibitory effect against high K^+ (80 mM)-induced contractions in rabbit jejunum and guinea pig ileum *in vitro* but caused complete relaxation against low K^+ (20 mM)-induced contractions, implying the spasmolytic effect was probably mediated through a K_{ATP} channel opener but not calcium channel blockade (92). Besides, the chemotype (patchouli alcohol) extract (DCME) and essential oil (VPAEO) (40 and 80 mg/kg, p.o.) inhibited the number of writhings but exerted no difference in tail-flick model, reflecting that merely peripheral analgesic activity but not higher center was involved. And the effect of aspirin in acetic writhing was no potentiation seen in DCME, but was activated in VPAEO, suggesting the underlying mechanism of analgesic activity was possibly mediated by K_{ATP} channel activation other than cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibition (92,99). The ethanol extract of the species could effectively prolong the convulsion latent period to a certain extent, but without influence on the rate of convulsion and could significantly decrease the death rate of pentylenetetrazol (PTZ)-induced convulsion mice at the dose of 2.0 g/kg (i.g. for 6 d). And it should be noticed that GABA level of the brain was increased with the administration of the extract, thus, the relationship between the expression of GABA and anti-convulsion activity became manifest (76). Another mechanism of treating epilepsy is also relevant to this species. Valepotriate isolated from the species increased the expression of Bcl-2, GABA_A and GAD65 proteins, and decreased the expression of caspase-3 protein, whereas exerted negligible activity on the expression of GABA_B in maximal electroshock-induced seizure and PTZ-induced epilepsy rats, illustrating the positive effect of valepotriate on epilepsy might be related to the regulation of GABA and suppression of neuronal apoptosis (6).

Anti-inflammatory and Immunoregulatory Activities

The hydroalcoholic extract of leaves with the presence of saponin, glycosides, flavonoids, tannins and phenolic

compounds, etc. appeared to exert the inhibition of inflammatory activity (79). The aqueous (Aq-Ext) and methanolic (Me-Ext) rhizomes extracts were revealed to suppress inflammatory activity in carrageenan-induced paw oedema rats, but only Aq-Ext was shown dose dependently suppressed. Moreover, the curative effect resembled those observed in non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (90). Drug serum of the herb (powder of the plant) could not only effectively enhance the proliferation and transformation rate of splenic lymphocytes with ConA and LPS combination, but could also promote the energy metabolism activity of peritoneal macrophage in mice, reflecting the drug serum of the herb could activate the specific humoral immune function and cellular immune response of conductors (136). What's more, diminished levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-2 and IL-6) were significantly ameliorated following *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones rhizome extract (VRE) treatment in MPTP-induced PD mice, providing conclusive evidence of the potential of VRE to mitigate inflammatory damage in PD (88). A notable anti-inflammatory-like activity (0.14% edema inhibition rate) of the methanolic extract was observed at a dose of 200 mg/kg in carrageenan-induced paw edema model compared to diclofenac (0.23%). The crude methanolic leaf extract of the species was applied in carrageenan-induced hind paw edema rats (CHPER) and validated its ethnopharmacological uses in anti-inflammation via significant inhibition of inflammation at early and late phases as compared with NSAID product diclofenac (133). Likewise, the leaves and ethyl acetate fraction of the species in treatment for CHPER were also investigated *in vitro* and *in vivo*, indicating its weak inflammatory activity compared to standard (piroxicam gel 0.5%) at initial stages, but it revealed a comparable effect with that of standard at later phases of inflammation (86). And it was similarly investigated that orally administrated Tagara (made into capsules) into the same model at dose of 40 mg/kg bd exhibited anti-inflammatory property with dose-dependently but not the larger dosages of 80, 120 mg/kg (137). When applying ACPC (with 39% *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) and Qiuxieling Mixture (mainly composed of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones) for treating infants infected with HRV, it was obviously found that serum levels of immunoglobulins and complements were changed, with lower levels of IgG, IgA, IgM, C3, CD3⁺, CD4⁺, CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio, and higher levels of CD19⁺ and CD8⁺. And it should be noticed that the immune functions were apparently improved after treatment (13,131).

Insecticidal, acaricidal, nematocidal and antileishmanial activities

The essential oil isolated from the whole plant of the species was active against pests *Aphis craccivora* Koch with LC₅₀ values of 90.75 ppm at 24 h contact and 57.03 ppm at 48 h contact (37). The root extract of the herb (BAL-O) was analysed that the major constituents are aristolene (5.19%), cadinol (5.23%), caryophyllene oxide (5.46%), cubenol (5.97%), patchouli alcohol (8.55%) and 2-butanone,4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-2-cyclohexen-1-yl) (10.11%). And it was revealing that LC₅₀ values of BAL-O against larvae of 5 mosquito species including *Anopheles culicifacies*, *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus*, *Anopheles stephensi* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* are 42.8, 51.2, 53.8, 68.1 and 80.6 mg/liter, respectively (95). Moreover, fumigant of the essential oils was investigated to study their activity against Japanese termites (*Reticulitermes speratus* Kolbe). The essential oil was revealed to exert moderate or weak fumigant toxicity (mortality ranged 2% -88%) after treatment for 2 days. Whereas, among the chemical compositions, only *cis*-asarone (88.82%) and *cis*-ocimene (0.12%) showed 100% toxicity against Japanese termites after treatment for 7 days, which might be due to the lower vapor pressure, suggesting an importance of exposure time and vapor pressure in evaluating the essential oils. Besides, comparing with the other components of *Liquidambar orientalis*, it was concluded that the insecticidal activity against Japanese termites was possibly due to a benzene ring existed in the active compounds (124).

Another pest pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) applied with the valerian oils was also reported. It was indicated that the oils containing 4 major compounds *cis*-ocimene, linalool, *trans*-asarone, *cis*-asarone exhibited apparent nematocidal activity against *B. xylophilus* mainly due to the contents of *cis*-asarone (34).

Another area of the activity against *Leishmania* spp was investigated explicitly. The methanol (VjM) and chloroform (VjC) extracts of the valerian roots were shown to exert anti-viability activity of promastigotes and amastigotes of *L. major* as well as *L. donovani* promastigotes. F3, the most active fraction obtained from VjC, showed IC₅₀ at 3-7 μ g/mL against the promastigotes and 0.3 μ g/mL against intracellular amastigotes of *L. major*, and induced apoptotic death in leishmanial cells through analysis of cytotoxicity, cellular morphology, phosphatidyl serine, oligonucleosomal DNA fragmentation, mitochondrial membrane and ROS generation (89). And Glaser *et al.* further identified 3

valtrates and 3 cinnamic acid derivatives as structures responsible for antileishmanial principles (IC_{50} 0.8-5.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) with bioassay-guided fractionation (68).

Cytotoxicity

Cytotoxicity against various cancer lines of compounds and extracts of the herb are summarized in Table 3. Preliminary pharmaceutical analysis revealed that quite a number of compounds isolated from *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones could effectively exhibit cytotoxicity against various cancer cell lines, i.e., human small-cell lung cancer (GLC4), human colorectal cancer (COLO 320), lung adenocarcinoma (A549), gastric carcinoma cells (SGC 7901), metastatic prostate cancer (PC-3M), hepatoma (Bel7402) and colon cancer (HCT-8) cell lines with IC_{50} values ranging from 0.89 to 9.76 μM , and some of the compounds like valepotriates (valtrate and didrovaltrate) and iridoids (3,8-epoxy iridoids) displayed toxicity against neoplastic cells, with IC_{50} values of 0.4-15.2 μM (31,35,42,46,48,69). Valejatanin A, a diene iridoid, showed inhibition of human colon carcinoma cell (HT29), human leukemia cell (K562) and mouse melanoma cell (B16) with IC_{50} values of 14.37, 2.85 and 15.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, respectively (63). Treatment of compound 5-7, derived from the roots, could exert significant selective cytotoxicity against colorectal cancer cell (HCT-116), with IC_{50} values ranging from 1.7 to 9.3 μM (18). Besides, five iridoids and six analogues were shown to display no dramatic cytotoxicity effect on A549 and SGC 7901 except 3,8-epoxy and 4-acetoxy iridoids (42,139). Nevertheless, researchers found no significant difference in the body weight in mice administrated with IEFV at a daily dose of 3200 mg/kg for 14 days of the acute toxicity study. They indicated 3200 mg/kg was the maximum tolerated dose, which was equal to 2666 times of that of adult clinically. And LD_{50} value was over 2000 mg/kg body weight. Furthermore, the sub-chronic toxicity study revealed no direct correlation between the hematology and blood biochemical indexes, as well as the toxicity of IRFV and the organ damage (110).

Other pharmacological activities

Extracts and essential oils of the herb were shown to exhibit strong peripheral and weak central antinociceptive effect, which might be probably acting through inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis and opioidergic pathway (91).

The aqueous extract of the root mainly contain hesperdin (HN) countered radiation-induced free radicals

after exposed to 5 Gy γ -irradiation for 4 h, decreased mitochondrial mass, and enhanced reproductive viability of SV-40 transformed human embryonic lung fibroblast (MRC5 V1) cells against radiation-induced naked DNA damage in solution (103).

What's more, the crude extract of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (Vj.Cr) caused entire relaxation by low K^+ (25 mM)-induced shrink, whereas mildly inhibited the contractions by high K^+ (80 mM)-induced shrink in guinea-pig trachea. Of note, it was presented that the suppression of low K^+ (25 mM)-induced shrink was reversed with the presence of glibenclamide (3 μM), and the contractions induced by low K^+ was relaxed glibenclamide-sensitively caused by cromakalim, while no effect on high K^+ -induced shrink. Therefore, with the combination of earlier study they reported (92), it was suggested that this species possessed bronchodilatory action through the cooperation of prevailing ATP-dependant K^+ channel activation and negligible Ca^{2+} entry blocking mechanism.

Related mechanisms

More recent research on *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones is facilitating to explore predominant functions of 6-methylapigenin, valeric acid, valepotriate and different extracts, especially their roles playing in regulating GABAergic activity (6,65,108). Reduction of the capacity of scavenging free radical, cytotoxicity and cell apoptosis were observed after the degradation of the iridoid valepotriates. Thus, it was assumed that conceivable mechanism of antioxidant activities of iridoid valepotriates might be related to GABAergic signaling pathways (45). Valepotriate isolated from the medicinal herb increased the expression of $GABA_A$, whereas exerted negligible activity on the expression of $GABA_B$ in seizure and epileptic rats, illustrating the positive effect of valepotriate on epilepsy might be related to the regulation of GABA (6). What's more, 6-methylapigenin (MA), a bioactive flavonoid isolated from the rhizomes and roots, might be acting as tranquilizer with the evidence of its ability to act as a ligand for the benzodiazepine binding sites (118). The results of administration of the rhizomes extract and valeric acid isolated from the herb were revealed that both of the administration could decrease the level of lipid peroxidation and reduce the restored GSH in brains. It is noteworthy that the effect of improving memory with the administration of valeric acid (40 mg/kg) was significant compared with the plant extract. The study might help validate the fact of neuroprotective potentiality of the herb

Table 3 Cytotoxicity against cancer lines of compounds and extracts of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones

Cancer cell	Cell lines	Compounds	IC ₅₀	Refs
Human ovarian cancer cell	SK-OV-3	Valtrate	17.73 μM	(138)
Human breast cancer cell	MDA-MB-231	Jatamanvaltrate P	4.32 μM	(60)
	MDA-MB-231	Valtrate	7.81 μM	(138)
	MDA-MB-468	Jatamanvaltrate P	7.05 μM	(60)
	MDA-MB-468	Valtrate	8.2 μM	(138)
	MDA-MB-453	Jatamanvaltrate P	4.05 μM	(60)
	MDA-MB-453	Valtrate	8.59 μM	(138)
Human breast cancer cell	MCF-7	Jatamanvaltrate P	5.59 μM	(60)
	MCF-7	Valtrate	9.27 μM	(138)
Human prostate cancer cell	LNCap	Valtrate	13.63 μM	(138)
Human pancreatic cancer cell	PANCI	Valtrate	19.06 μM	(138)
Human liver carcinoma cell	HepG2	Valtral C	1.90 μM	(51)
	HepG2	8-hydroxyl-pathouli alcohol	2.54 μM	(51)
	Bel 7402	Acevaltrate	1.7 μM	(46)
	Bel 7402	Volvaltrate B	6.1 μM	(69)
	Bel 7402	Chlorovaltrates K-N/chlorovaltrate/rupesin B	0.89–9.76 μM	(31)
	Bel 7402	Valtrate	1.0–7.4 μM	(46)
	Bel 7402	Valtral A	>10 μM	(70)
	Bel 7402	Valtral B	>10 μM	(70)
	Bel 7402	Valtral C	>10 μM	(70)
	Bel 7402	Valtral C	>10 μM	(70)
Human gastric cancer cell	MGC803	Valtral C	4.28 μM	(51)
	MGC803	8-hydroxyl-pathouli alcohol	4.96 μM	(51)
Human colorectal cancer cell	HCT116	Valtral C	1.7 μM	(18)
	HCT116	Desoxidodidrovaltrate	2.2 μM	(18)
	HCT116	Desacylbaldrial	9.3 μM	(18)
Human lung adenocarcinoma cell	A549	Acevaltrate	2.9 μM	(46)
	A549	Volvaltrate B	8.5 μM	(69)
	A549	Chlorovaltrates K-N/chlorovaltrate/rupesin B	0.89–9.76 μM	(31)
	A549	Didrovaltrate acetoxo hydrin	1.0–7.4 μM	(46)
	A549	Valtral A	>10 μM	(70)
	A549	Valtral B	>10 μM	(70)
	A549	Valtral C	>10 μM	(70)
	GLC4	Isovaltral	0.4 μM	(48)
	GLC4	Acevaltrate	1.3 μM	(48)
	GLC4	Valtrate	1.4 μM	(48)

Table 3 (continued)

Table 3 (continued)

Cancer cell	Cell lines	Compounds	IC ₅₀	Refs
	GLC4	Isovaleroxyhydroxydidrovaltrate	2.4 μM	(48)
	GLC4	Isovaltrate	2.5 μM	(48)
	GLC4	Didrovaltrate	8.9 μM	(48)
Mouse melanoma cells	B16	Valejatanin A	3.53 μg/mL	(63)
Human leukemia cell	K562	Valejatanin A	15.26 μg/mL	(63)
Human colon cancer cell	HCT-8	Acevaltrate	1.0 μM	(46)
	HCT-8	Valtral C	2.1 μM	(70)
	HCT-8	Valtral B	2.3 μM	(70)
	HCT-8	Volvaltrate B	3.2 μM	(69)
	HCT-8	Valtral A	4.2 μM	(70)
	HCT-8	(+)-9'-Isovaleroxyariciresinol	5.3 μM	(35)
Human colon cancer cell	HCT-8	Chlorovaltrates K-N/chlorovaltrate/rupesin B	0.89–9.76 μM	(31)
	HCT-8	5-hydroxydidrovaltrate	1.0–7.4 μM	(46)
Human colorectal cancer cell	COLO 320	Isovaltral	1.2 μM	(48)
	COLO 320	Valtrate	3 μM	(48)
	COLO 320	Acevaltrate	3.6 μM	(48)
	COLO 320	Isovaltrate	5.4 μM	(48)
	COLO 320	Isovaleroxyhydroxydidrovaltrate	7.2 μM	(48)
	COLO 320	Didrovaltrate	15.2 μM	(48)
Human metastatic prostate cancer	PC-3M	Acevaltrate	1.4 μM	(46)
	PC-3M	Volvaltrate B	2.0 μM	(69)
	PC-3M	Valtral B	2.7 μM	(70)
	PC-3M	Valtral C	2.8 μM	(70)
	PC-3M	Valtral A	6.5 μM	(70)
	PC-3M	(+)-9'-Isovaleroxyariciresinol	8.1 μM	(35)
	PC-3M	Chlorovaltrates K-N/chlorovaltrate/rupesin B	0.89–9.76 μM	(31)
	PC-3M	IVHD-valtrate	1.0–7.4 μM	(46)
	PC-3M	Jatamanvaltrate A-B/D/F-M/valeriotetrate A/ valeriotriate B/didrovaltrate acetoxy hydrin/5- hydroxydidrovaltrate/didrovaltrate/ valtrate/acevaltrate	1.4–6.3 μM	(46)

and its isolate valeric acid in ameliorating memory cognition and retention via GABAergic activity in model dementia rats (65). Another *in vivo* study revealed that iridoid fraction of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones (IEFV) (6, 9, 12 mg/kg, for 7 d, p.o.) might inhibit the excitability of the central nervous system (CNS) through increasing the GABA level (108). ACPC was explored to identify the exact molecular mechanism on the roles in the mediation of anxiety (125,126). What's more, treatment of ICR mice with saline or ACPC could slightly prolong the incubation period of convulsion in mice but was not statistically different, as compared with the control group. However, the anti-anxiety effect of diazepam and ACPC was antagonized by flumazenil. Therefore, it was indicated that ACPC might exert anti-anxiety effect (but no sedative effects) via GABA receptor (126,127).

It has been identified that the suppression of GABA system could help activate the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis at the level of paraventricular hypothalamic nucleus (140). The ethanol extract and total valeportriate from roots and rhizomes were revealed to play a significant role in antianxiety activity and sedation and hypnogenesis. And after the animals were orally administrated with valtrate (for 10 d), serum CS and the brain hippocampal tissue in the neurotransmitter 5-HT, DA and NE levels were down-regulated, suggesting that the ethanol extract and total valeportriate from the herb could play a role in regulation of anxiety through HPA axis system and could be a potential anxiolytic drug (8,113). To further study the dysfunction of HPA in anxiety model rats, Yan et, al. found that blood β -EP and CS levels were higher in the anxiety model group rats than in the normal group, and the expression of HPA axis-related genes CRH and neuropeptide Orexin were down-regulated in rats treated by ethanol extract of roots/rhizomes, suggesting that ethanol extract could be involved in exerting effects on dysfunction on HPA axis in anxiety model rats (71).

Therefore, it could be noted that the mechanisms between GABAergic activity and HPA axis have not been identified yet.

Future prospects and conclusions

Crude plant of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones contains various compounds and a wide range of pharmacological activities. In this regard, valeportriates could play a momentous role for the reasons that they are not only a predominant proportion of constituents in the herb, but also these constituents are

relatively bioactive and well-studied compared to other derivatives. However, chemical compounds responsible for these effects are still unknown, though the preliminary bioactivities of a few major compounds (valerian, IVHD-valtrate, 11-ethoxyviburtinal, and hesperidin) have been extensively studied. In fact, it is a primary raw ingredient of the health product Tagara for treating depressive insomnia. Clinically, polyherbal combination with the herb ACPC and Compound Mati Xiang Keli have been applied for the treatment of anxiety and PRE, respectively. The mechanism of the formula for treating the diseases might attribute to the complicated structural constituents, and the exact mechanism of the formula need to be further investigated. For example, it was indicated that the aqueous extract (containing hesperidin) was able to protect against radiation-injury *in vitro*. While the radioprotective efficacy of the aqueous extract cannot be conducive solely to the hesperidin content alone, suggesting other compounds present in the extract must conduce to its radioprotective ability (103). Therefore, further studies are warranted to illuminate the mechanisms responsible for these activities at the molecular levels but not just in preliminary studies, which is a major challenge for us to promote its usages clinically. However, it could be noted that the mechanisms between GABAergic activity and HPA axis have not been identified yet. As intensive research has indicated the dual-function of antitumor and anti-inflammatory effects of the natural compounds, great attention of cancer treatment should be paid. Nevertheless, the anticancer effects were not strong enough to satisfy the therapy, therefore, molecular modification of the compounds will be helpful. As an important herbal medicine with great potential to be explored, another work such as the exact mechanism of how the bioactive compounds exert therapeutic effect on specific diseases and proper application of polyherbal combination should be studied further. Moreover, sometimes the names of chemical compounds are imprecise like Jatamanvaltrate P with different molecular formula ($C_{27}H_{40}O_{10}$ and $C_{22}H_{32}O_9$, compound NO.46 and NO.47 in *Table 1*) (60,61) that might be obscure when applied into use. The acute and sub-chronic toxicity tests have provided the present risks of the potential drug dose-response relationship and toxic characteristics, as well as the biological transport and biotransformation of compounds in the organism.

Meanwhile, it should be noted that pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the herb have been hardly studied, thus the process of the absorption, metabolism, decomposition, excretion and side effects after the

chemicals delivered into the body should be the next research direction, and this should be noticed by other advanced studies or clinical trials to avoid adverse effects. Moreover, novel methods such as bioassay-guided separation, bioisostere and ISSR markers should be utilized to explore more latent components with bioactivity. These unprecedented mechanisms of action mentioned in section “Related Mechanisms” would be helpful to explore more potent analogs to be specific diseases-treating agents, which will be contributed to improving efficiency of exploration at the same time. On the other hand, the improvement of the quality control of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones crude drugs and related latent chemicals with bioactivities could be utilized by the chemical markers tabbed by identified major bioactive structure. Furthermore, bioactive compounds in large-scale production could be achieved with the metabolic engineering, which could be simultaneously helpful to protect the species naturally occurring in the wild.

This review comprehensively summarizes research progress in botanical characteristics, phytochemistry and pharmacology of *Valeriana jatamansi* Jones to provide a strong bolster for a promising natural resource of drugs for the treatment of various diseases and a long term development in exploring highlighted area.

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