

shown to exert significant anti-cancer effects on a great variety of neoplasms [43]. For *N. sativa* anti-cancer effects, different mechanisms such as utilization of free radicals, effects on enzyme activity, inhibition of cell proliferation [85], changes in intracellular glutathione, anti-oxidant activity, trapping free radicals [59, 86] and induction of apoptosis in cancer cells through a pathway dependent and ~~independent of~~ p53 have been proposed [87]. Also for TQ anti-cancer mechanism, its effects on colon cancer cells ~~are~~ growth inhibition, morphological changes, and increased apoptosis of cancer cells. TQ induces apoptosis by increasing the expression of the target gene mRNAs of P53 and p21WAF1, and ~~significant~~ inhibition of anti-apoptotic proteins (BCL-2) [88]. In a study, the methanol extract of *N. sativa* ~~had~~ shows a strong cytotoxic action against Ehrlich ascites carcinoma cells and Dalton's ascitic lymphoma cells and a minimal cytotoxicity to normal lymphocytes [89]. Cytotoxic and apoptotic effects of *N. sativa* ethanol extract on ACHN line of renal cancer cells in comparison to normal L929 cells have been reported [90]. *N. sativa* seed extract ~~with less toxicity on normal lymphocyte cells, had~~ has a potent anti-cancer effects on sarcoma and lymphoma-180 cells, ~~with less toxicity on normal lymphocytes~~ [91]. Also topical application of *N. sativa* extract inhibited early stages of skin cancer in mice [92]. Moreover, TQ anti-tumor and anti-angiogenic effects on osteosarcoma *in vitro* and *in vivo* ~~were~~ have been investigated and the ~~re-~~Results demonstrated that TQ induces a higher percentage of growth inhibition and apoptosis in the human osteosarcoma cell line SaOS-2; and ~~in a dose-dependent manner considerably block~~ed constitution of human umbilical vein endothelial cell tube ~~in a dose-dependent manner~~. It ~~was~~ observed that TQ significantly downregulates NF- $\kappa$ B DNA-binding activity, XIAP, survivin, and VEGF in SaOS-2 cells. ~~Also, treatment with TQ upregulates the expression of~~ cleaved caspase-3 and SMAC in SaOS-2 cells. ~~Findings showed that~~ TQ effectively inhibited tumor angiogenesis and tumor growth both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. As a result, inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B and downstream effector molecules ~~was~~ is a possible mechanism of ~~action for~~ TQ's ~~in~~ anti-tumor and anti-angiogenic activity in osteosarcoma [92]. ~~Also, the~~ The inhibitory effects of TQ ~~were identified~~ are reported *in vitro* and *in vivo* on benzo(a)pyrene induced stomach cervical cancer in rats [93]. Another study showed that induced fibrosarcoma can be inhibited by TQ *in vitro* and ~~the~~ The mechanism ~~of~~ for this effect ~~is~~ was not clear, but may ~~be related to~~ interference with DNA synthesis, which ~~was~~ is probably related to glutathione reduction and storage, lipid peroxides, and the activity of some enzymes [94-95].

#### Anti-diabetic activity

*N. sativa* ~~usage~~ has been recommended by many traditional medicine experts to treat diabetes [96]. Significant effects of *N. sativa* on blood sugar reduction have been confirmed, ~~which is~~ This effect ~~was~~ probably due to the presence of essential oil [42]. It ~~was~~ thought that ~~many~~ the anti-diabetic prop-

erties of *N. sativa* ~~were~~ are induced by activation of adenosine monophosphate kinase (AMPK), ~~a~~ glucose and lipid-affecting cellular uptake of proteins with hypolipidemic and anti-diabetic properties [97-98]. Oral administration of volatile oil of black cummin (2 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>·BW<sup>-1</sup>) ~~in Balb/c mice, showed~~ shows a significant reduction in blood glucose ~~in Balb/c mice~~ [44]. Intraperitoneal injection of NSO (50 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>) caused considerable hypoglycemic effect in fasting normal rabbits and alloxan-diabetic rabbits. ~~Also~~ because of no change in basal insulin levels ~~in all groups~~ it appears that *N. sativa* reduces blood glucose by an insulin-independent mechanism [99]. *N. sativa* extract showed an insulin-sensitizing action by enhancing ACC phosphorylation, a major component of the insulin-independent AMPK signaling pathway, and by enhancing muscle Glut4 content [100].

Moreover, *N. sativa* extract ~~in streptozotocin-diabetic rats causes~~ regeneration and relative proliferation in beta cells and a decrement in free radicals production ~~in streptozotocin-diabetic rats~~ [101-102]. Treatment of rats with *N. sativa* extract and oil and TQ, significantly decreases tissue MDA and serum glucose and increases serum insulin and tissue SOD levels in rats. These findings demonstrated that *N. sativa* and TQ could be clinically useful in the treatment of diabetes and in the protection of  $\beta$ -cells against oxidative stress [103]. In another research, *N. sativa* powder (mixed with edible food) and TQ (in drinking water) were given to rats for 25 days ~~and~~ Hematologic parameters analysis demonstrated that TQ and *N. sativa* induced a significant decrease in blood sugar in normal rats [104]. ~~Also,~~ *N. sativa* extract consumption for two months in rabbits causes a considerable reduction in blood glucose and ceruloplasm and ~~also~~ improves histological and biochemical signs of liver injury. These beneficial effects can be attributed to its anti-oxidant properties [105]. *N. sativa* regulates activity of glucose metabolism liver enzymes and thereby reduces the gluconeogenesis. It inhibited the activity of "glucose 6-phosphatase and fructose 1.6 bisphosphatase," which is involved in gluconeogenesis. Furthermore, *N. sativa* increases the enzyme activity of "glucose 6-phosphate, which is involved in the pentose phosphate pathway in cells [106-107].

#### Cardiovascular-protective activity

In a study, the protective effect of *N. sativa* on the thoracic aorta contractile response ~~was~~ is evaluated in an experimental model of diabetes mellitus in rat. The results showed that treatment of diabetic rats with this plant causes maximum reduction in contractile response to non-specific KCL agonist and specific noradrenaline agonist. Probably long-term oral administration of *N. sativa* could reduce vascular contractile responsiveness and the number of cardiovascular complications in diabetes [108].

In another study, the effect of *N. sativa* ~~is~~ was studied on cardiac activity in diabetic rabbits ~~and~~ The results showed that *N. sativa* extract modulates irregular heart activity in diabetic rats [109]. ~~Also,~~ The protective effects of TQ and acute (at 4 and 18 hours) effects of diesel exhaust particles