

### Inhibitory Effects of Seven Chinese Herb Extract Essences on Melanin Formation in B16 Melanoma Cells

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Effects of healthy drink, Meirusenju (MRSJ), which is composed of the essences of *Lycium chinense* Miller, *Crataegus cuneata* Siebold et Zuccarini, *Phyllanthus emblica* L, *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, *Zizyphus jujuba* Miller var. *inermis* Rehd, *Ganoderma lucidum*, and *Coix lacryma-jobi* L. var. *mayuen* Stapf, on melanin formation in B16 melanoma cells were studied. MRSJ inhibited the melanin formation in a dose -dependent manner. In seven Chinese herb extract essences, *Canoderma lucidum* showed the strongest inhibitory activity without cytotoxicity. MRSJ also showed antioxidant characteristics such as reducing power and free radical scavenging capacity. The antioxidant properties of MRSJ may also contribute to the inhibition of melanogenesis. MRSJ could be applied as an inhibitor of melanogenesis and a natural antioxidant in skin care products.

**Key words:** Chinese herb extract essences, melanogenesis, anti-oxidation