



Andrographolide Attenuates Senna- and Castor Oil-induced Diarrhea in Mice

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SUMMARY. Andrographolide (AND) is a diterpenoid lactone extracted from *Andrographis paniculata*, a member of family Acanthaceae. AND is a pharmacological component of traditional Chinese medicines, and various AND-derived pharmaceuticals are extensively used clinically to treat infectious diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems. However, the effects of AND on intestinal dynamics have never been reported. In this study, we observed the therapeutic effects of AND on senna- and castor oil-induced diarrhea mouse models and found that AND significantly retarded their small intestinal propulsive motility. The two mouse models exhibited decreased vulnerability to senna- and castor oil-induced diarrhea after administration with 150 mg/kg AND, and their diarrhea indices decreased at all tested doses. AND reduced the large intestine weights per unit of the senna-induced mouse model and the small-intestine weights per unit of the castor oil-induced model. These findings can serve as theoretical basis for the clinical treatment of diarrhea.

KEY WORDS: Andrographolide, Castor oil, Diarrhea, Senna.

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