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COMPARATIVE CYTOTOXICITY OF *GLYCYRRHIZA GLABRA* ROOTS FROM DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGINS AGAINST IMMORTAL HUMAN KERATINOCYTE (HaCaT), LUNG ADENOCARCINOMA (A549) AND LIVER CARCINOMA (HepG2) CELLS

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Glycyrrhiza glabra L. (Fabaceae), commonly known as 'liquorice', is a well-known medicinal plant. Roots of this plant have long been used as a sweetening and flavouring agent in food and pharmaceutical products, and also as a traditional remedy for cough, upper and lower respiratory ailments, kidney stones, hepatitis C, skin disorder, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, gastrointestinal ulcers and stomach ache. Previous pharmacological and clinical studies have revealed its antitussive, anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antimicrobial, antioxidant, immunomodulatory, hepato- and cardio-protective properties. While glycyrrhizin, a sweet-tasting triterpene saponin, is the principal bioactive compound, several bioactive flavonoids and isoflavonoids are also present in the roots of this plant. In the present study, the cytotoxicity of the methanol extracts of nine samples of the roots of *G. glabra*, collected from various geographical origins, was assessed against immortal human keratinocyte (HaCaT), lung adenocarcinoma (A549) and liver carcinoma (HepG2) cell lines using the *in vitro* 3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl tetrazoliumbromide (MTT) cell toxicity/viability assay. Considerable variations in levels of cytotoxicity were observed among various samples of *G. glabra*.