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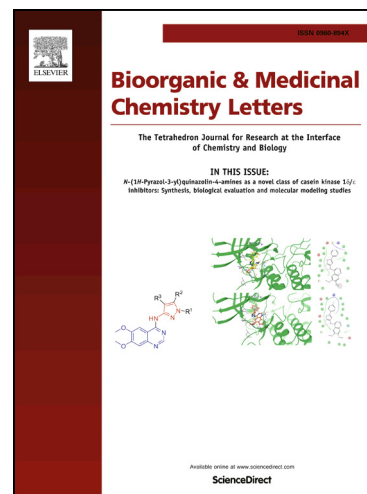
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Diverse amide analogs of sulindac for cancer treatment and prevention

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Abstract: Sulindac is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that has shown significant anticancer activity. Sulindac sulfide amide (**1**) possessing greatly reduced COX-related inhibition relative to sulindac displayed *in vivo* antitumor activity that was comparable to sulindac in a human colon tumor xenograft model. Inspired by these observations, a panel of diverse sulindac amide derivatives have been synthesized and their activity probed against three cancer cell lines (prostate, colon and breast). A neutral analog, compound **79** was identified with comparable potency relative to lead **1** and activity against a panel of lymphoblastic leukemia cell lines. Several new series also show good activity relative to the parent (**1**), including five analogs that also possess nanomolar inhibitory potencies against acute lymphoblastic leukemia cells. Several new analogs identified may serve as anticancer lead candidates for further development.

Key words: NSAIDs; sulindac; amides; cancer

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are a chemically diverse family of drugs commonly used clinically to treat a variety of inflammatory conditions including pain associated with arthritis. A number of these drugs possess antipyretic activity in addition to having analgesic and anti-inflammatory action, and thus have utility in the treatment of pain and fever. These are widely known to be cyclooxygenase (COX) inhibitors. The COX enzymes participate in the metabolism of prostaglandins. For example, COX-1 enzymes produce prostaglandins that are important for the stomach lining and kidney function. COX-2 enzymes are crucial to anti-inflammatory reactions in the body.¹ Many currently marketed NSAIDs have both COX-1 and COX-2 inhibitory effects. Although the class is highly used both clinically and over the counter, chronic COX inhibition is

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Abbreviations: NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; COX, cyclooxygenase; SSA, sulindac sulfide amide; SAR, structure-activity relationship; AA, amino acid; ALL, acute lymphoblastic leukemia; CPC, choroid plexus carcinoma; TPSA, topological polar surface area; LipE, lipophilic efficiency.

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