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(71) Applicant(s)
Lunan Pharmaceutical Group Corporation

(72) Inventor(s)
Zhao, Zhiqian

(74) Agent / Attorney
Allens Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys, Deutsche Bank Place Corner Hunter and Phillip Streets, SYDNEY, NSW, 2000

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(71) 申请人(对除美国外的所有指定国): 鲁南制药集团股份有限公司 (LUNAN PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP CORPORATION) [CN/CN]; 中国山东省临沂市红旗路 209 号, Shandong 276006 (CN)。

(72) 发明人; 及

(75) 发明人/申请人(仅对美国): 赵志全 (ZHAO, Zhi-quan) [CN/CN]; 中国山东省临沂市红旗路 209 号, Shandong 276006 (CN)。

(74) 代理人: 隆天国际知识产权代理有限公司 (LUNG TIN INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGENT LTD.); 中国北京市朝阳区慧忠路 5 号远大中心 B 座 18 层, Beijing 100101 (CN)。

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本国际公布:

- 包括国际检索报告(条约第 21 条(3))。
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(54) Title: APPLICATIONS OF ARCTIGENIN IN FORMULATING MEDICINES FOR PREVENTING OR TREATING DISEASES RELATED TO RED BLOOD CELL REDUCTION

(54) 发明名称: 牛蒡子苷元在制备预防或治疗血细胞减少相关疾病的药物中的用途

(57) Abstract: Provided are applications of arctigenin in formulating medicines for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, and preparations that contain arctigenin, particularly micro-emulsions that contain arctigenin. Experiments show that arctigenin can significantly increase the white cell counts after chemotherapy, especially the neutrophil granulocyte counts.

(57) 摘要:

本发明提供牛蒡子苷元在制备预防和治疗血细胞减少的药物中的用途, 以及含有牛蒡子苷元的制剂, 尤其是含有牛蒡子苷元的微乳。实验证明, 牛蒡子苷元具有显著地提高化疗后白细胞数量, 尤其是中性粒细胞数量的作用。

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APPLICATIONS OF ARCTIGENIN IN FORMULATING DRUGS FOR PREVENTING OR TREATING DISEASES RELATED TO RED BLOOD CELL REDUCTION

Field of the invention

5 The present invention relates to pharmaceutical uses of Arctigenin, especially the use of Arctigenin in manufacture of medicaments for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, which belongs to the field of the therapeutic activity of the compound.

10 Background of the invention

Normal blood contains a large number of cells, including red blood cells for transferring oxygen and white blood cells (also referred as leukocytes) for anti-infection. Leukocytes include neutrophils, eosinophils and basophils. Leukocytes are derived via bone marrow hematopoiesis. Normal blood also contains platelets.

15 Platelets are tiny cell debris initiating blood coagulation. Blood cells of the human body are generated by the hematopoietic system. Human hematopoietic system consists of a small amount of bone marrow hematopoietic stem cells and different series of hematopoietic cells at different developmental stages, which is very sensitive to various physicochemical factors and harmful factors generated by *in vivo* metabolism, such as body fatigue, exposure to radiation or certain chemotherapy drugs, which leads to diseases like anemia and bone marrow suppression (also referred as myelosuppression) induced by blood cell reduction. In addition, there is also the congenital blood cells reduction, such as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.

20

Cancer patients have to receive radiotherapy and chemotherapy based treatments in quite a long time. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy are therapies for treating cancers by radiation or cytotoxic agents. However, radiotherapy and the vast majority of chemotherapy treatments are nonspecific, which are toxic to normal rapidly dividing

cells. Large dose of radiation is also toxic to normal rapidly dividing cells. This often produces a variety of side effects in patients who are subjected to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Although other normal tissues may also be adversely affected, bone marrow is particularly sensitive to such specific proliferation treatment as 5 chemotherapy or radiotherapy. Bone marrow suppression, i.e., decline in production of blood cells in bone marrow, is the side effect of this class, and is characterized as decline in myeloproliferation, decline in blood cell counts, decline in leukocytes in peripheral blood, decline in neutrophils and/or thrombocytopenia, or even aplastic anemia, which causes serious harm to the patient's quality of life, and may even be 10 life-threatening.

Clinically, patients who are subjected to radiotherapy, chemotherapy are vulnerable to injury with varying degrees of bone marrow suppression, noting as decline in leukocytes in peripheral blood, decline in neutrophils and/or thrombocytopenia. 15 Peripheral blood neutrophils in human body accounts for about 50-70% of the total number of leukocytes, its increase and decline has a direct impact on the changes in the total number of leukocytes, i.e., as the number of neutrophils increases, the number of leukocytes increases; as the number of neutrophils decreases, the total number of leukocytes decreases. Correlation in both their number is in the sense of 20 consistency, i.e. the significance of the increase or decrease in neutrophils is essentially consistent with the significance of the increase or decrease in the total number of leukocytes. Patients with bone marrow suppression are vulnerable to infection. Deficiency in neutrophilic leukocytes and platelet is the main causes of morbidity and mortality after cancer treatment, which also leads to the high cost of 25 cancer treatment.

However, radiotherapy and chemotherapy are still the most commonly employed means in the treatment of tumors. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy-induced complications like bone marrow hematopoietic suppression has become an important 30 factor that affects the quality of life in patients. Chemical drugs for auxiliary treatment

of tumors exhibiting definite efficacy themselves will produce more adverse reactions after use, and making the patients even more painful. Many medical workers are committed to looking for some effective drugs with fewer side effects to against the damages induced by radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

5

The clinical measure currently adopted to bone marrow suppression is mostly to give a variety of growth factor in order to increase the proliferation of hematopoietic cells. The recombinant hematopoietic growth factors which have been most recently appeared on the market, such as Levcomax (rhGM-GSF), Filgrastim (rhG-CSF) have a 10 significant effect in increasing the number of leukocytes, which, however, is too expensive to be afforded by most of the patients. Further, rhGM-GSF, rhG-CSF cannot be used concurrently with chemotherapy, and neither can it be used for prevention purpose, excepted that when reduction in leukocytes occurs to avoid the toxic effects to be generated.

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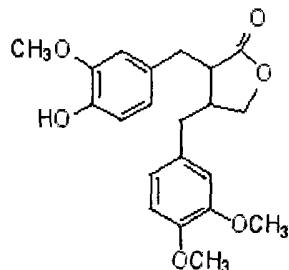
In addition, the use of hematopoietic growth factors in gene therapy, such as IL-6, IL-3 gene therapy, is still in the animal testing stage. Further, autologous bone marrow transplantation is often used in conjunction with high-dose chemotherapy, which, however, is difficult to be applied repeatedly.

20

Therefore, development of a safe, effective, inexpensive method for preventing and treating blood cell reduction, particularly blood cell reduction induced by the side effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, as well as prompting the white blood cell counts after chemotherapy and radiotherapy, are significant for improving the effect 25 of chemotherapy and radiotherapy against tumors, prolonging the survival period of cancer patients, improving the quality of life.

Burdock (*Arctium lappa*; Latin name, *Arctium lappal*) is a genus of *Arctium* plants of the Asteraceae family. Both Arctiin and Arctigenin are derived from the dried ripe fruit 30 of burdock, namely *Arctium lappa* Linne. Due to the low activity of Arctiin, arctiin must

be converted to Arctigenin via metabolism before being absorbed by the human body, whereas Arctigenin is an active ingredient which can be directly absorbed by human body, having the structure as shown below:



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Currently, it has been reported in literature that Arctigenin has the following pharmacological activity:

- 1) anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects;
- 2) antiviral activity, including HIV-1 and influenza virus;
- 10 3) induction of apoptosis of tumor cells;
- 4) therapeutic effect on nephropathy and diabetes, the complications of diabetes;
- 5) heat shock response inhibition;
- 6) neuroprotective effects;
- 7) dilation of blood vessels;
- 15 8) antagonism of platelet activating factor;
- 9) anti-Alzheimer's;
- 10) inhibition of K⁺ contracture and the like.

For example, Cho J Y (Cho J Y, *et al.*, "Immunomodulatory effect of arctigenin, a lignan compound on tumor necrosis factor- α and nitric oxide production, and lymphocyte proliferation[J]". *J Pharm Pharmcol.* 1999; 51(11): 1267-1273) discloses that Arctigenin has anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects. Gao Y (Gao Y, *et al.*, "in vitro anti-influenza virus activity of Arctigenin", *Chinese Traditional and Herbal Drugs*, 2002, (8):724-726) discloses that Arctigenin has antiviral activity. Kim S H (Kim S H, *et al.*, "Hepatoprotective dibenzylbutyrolactone lignans of *Torreya nucifera* against

CCl4-induced toxicity in primary cultured rat hepatocytes[J]". *Biol Pharm Bull.* 2003; 26(8): 1202-1205) discloses that Arctigenin has the effect of inducing apoptosis of tumor cells. The above references are incorporated herein by reference.

5 In addition, the extraction process for separating Arctigenin has also been reported. For example, Zeng Y (Zeng Y, et al., "Lack of significant modifying effect of arctiin on prostate carcinogenesis in probasin/SV40 T antigen transgenic rats[J]". *Cancer Lett.* 2005; 222(2): 145-151) discloses a method of producing Arctigenin by hydrolysis of Arctiin using snailase. Also, <Handbook of extracting chemical components of Chinese
10 traditional medicine> (Edited by Yang Y, et al., China Press of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing; page 77) has reported a method of producing Arctigenin having a purity of ≥90% as determined by HPLC. Chinese patent application CN101134031A discloses two methods for producing Arctigenin and the method of preparing tablets, soft capsules, pills, and injection thereof. The above references are incorporated
15 herein by reference.

There is no literature reporting the activity of Arctigenin in preventing or treating blood cell reduction, particularly the activity in preventing or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

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Disclosure of the invention

For the shortcomings of the existing drugs used in preventing or treating blood cell reduction related diseases, particularly for preventing and treating bone marrow suppression, an objective of the present invention is to provide a drug for preventing
25 and/or treating blood cell reduction, particularly for preventing or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

The inventor has long been committed to studying the anticancer activity of Arctigenin with a number of achievements. Recently, the inventor unexpectedly found
30 the unexpected activity of Arctigenin in enhancing immunity and promoting

hematopoietic function during the process of further in-depth study.

According to the above findings, the present invention provides the following technical solutions:

5 In a first aspect there is provided the use of arctigenin in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction.

10 In a second aspect there is provided a method for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, comprising a step of administering to a subject in need of said treatment or prevention an effective amount of arctigenin.

15 In a third aspect there is provided a method for stimulating the production of blood cell in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of arctigenin.

5 It is to be noted that, throughout the description and claims of this specification, the word 'comprise' and variations of the word, such as 'comprising' and 'comprises', is not intended to exclude other variants or additional components, integers or steps. Modifications and improvements to the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Such 10 modifications and improvements are intended to be within the scope of this invention.

25 Any reference to or discussion of any document, act or item of knowledge in this specification is included solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not suggested or represented that any of these matters or any combination thereof formed at the priority date part of the common general knowledge, or was known to be relevant to an attempt to solve any problem with which this specification is concerned.

30 "Arctigenin" refers to a compound having the aforementioned structure, which may be obtained from extraction, biological synthesis, or chemical synthesis, including Arctigenin, pharmaceutically acceptable salts or possible hydrates thereof. The Arctigenin in the present

invention refers to biological or chemical products, of which the purity is ≥90%, ≥95% or ≥98% as determined by HPLC.

Any methods for preparing Arctigenin which has been disclosed prior to the application date of the present application can be used as the method for preparing arctigenin of the present invention. For example, the preparation can be achieved according to the method as described by Zeng Y, et. al. (see texts above) or the method as disclosed in the Chinese patent application CN101134031A. For example, extraction of Arctigenin may comprise the following steps:

- 0 (1) Taking the crude powder of burdock, adding an appropriate amount of acid to adjust the pH to acidic for hydrolysis to take place;
- 0 (2) Discarding the hydrolyzate, washing the aqueous solution of burdock with water until the pH reaches neutral, drying to obtain product A;
- 0 (3) Dissolving product A obtained from (2);
- .5 (4) Cool-precipitating the resultant solution obtained from (3), and removing the precipitate (e.g. by centrifugal machine);
- .5 (5) Obtaining product B from the supernatant of (4);
- .5 (6) Extracting product B to obtain crude Arctigenin extract (60%~70% Arctigenin);

(7) Purifying the crude Arctigenin extract (e.g. purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography) to give Arctigenin of high purity ($\geq 99.3\%$).

Blood cell reduction can be induced by a variety of causes. For example, it may be the
5 idiopathic or congenital one, or it may be the radiation or chemical induced blood cell
reduction, including various reductions of blood cell, such as erythropenia,
thrombocytopenia, various leukopenia and the like. Diseases related to blood cell
reduction refer to diseases induced, mediated or caused by blood cell reduction,
including, for example, thrombocytopenia, bone marrow suppression, anemia, and
10 other idiopathic or secondary blood diseases related to blood cell reduction, which,
however, are not limited thereto.

In the present invention, said “thrombocytopenia” refers to a condition characterized
by platelet defects, and includes thrombocytopenia induced by radiotherapy or
15 chemotherapy, like anti-cancer drugs, and congenital thrombocytopenia, such as
idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), etc. Currently, platelet loss induced by
anti-cancer drugs is the rate-limiting step in chemotherapy. For patients with severe
thrombocytopenia, treatment must be reduced or suspended, until the platelet level is
elevated to a level higher than the threshold value. Clinical symptoms found in ITP
20 patients are identical to that in patients with chemotherapy-induced
thrombocytopenia, which include increased risk of bleeding, and even life-threatening
bleeding, etc.

In the present invention, said “bone marrow suppression” or “myelosuppression”
25 refers to separate or simultaneous reduction of blood cells, including leukocytes,
erythrocytes, neutrophils or platelets, and is characterized as decline in production of
blood cell or platelet. Healthy bone marrow generates every day a large number of red
blood cells, leukocytes and platelet. Under the bone marrow suppression, these cells
produced by the bone marrow decline. One characteristic of bone marrow suppression

is decline in production of leukocytes. This decline in production of leukocytes may be induced by certain treatments, particularly cancer treatments, for example, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Preferably, said bone marrow suppression in the present invention is characterized as decline in the number of peripheral blood 5 leukocytes or thrombocytopenia, bone marrow dysplasia or aplastic anemia. In one embodiment, said peripheral leucopenia refers to reduction in peripheral blood neutrophils.

In the present invention, said "anemia" refers to the condition wherein the number of 10 erythrocytes and hemoglobin in blood, or the packed cell volume are decreased below the normal value, according to the characterization by the hematocrit determination. Anemia may be classified, according to causes to anemia, for example, into aplastic 15 anemia, hemolytic anemia, iron deficiency anemia and sickle cell anemia, which, however, is not limited thereto. Among these, aplastic anemia is characterized as lacking of red blood cell regeneration and resistance to treatment. In these patients, the myeloid cells, erythrocyte series and thrombopoietic stem cells significantly 20 decrease, which leads to pancytopenia.

It can be seen that the basis pathology and clinical symptoms of the above diseases 20 exhibit as blood cell reduction, which are consistent among the above diseases. In this regard, based on the activity of Arctigenin of the present invention in enhancing immunity and promoting hematopoiesis, the present invention provides the use of Arctigenin in manufacture of medicaments for preventing or treating diseases related 25 to blood cell reduction.

25

Said blood cell reduction is preferably thrombocytopenia and leukopenia, particularly neutropenia. Among the above-mentioned diseases, the present invention that Arctigenin is preferably used for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression, more preferably radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

Accordingly, in one specific embodiment, the present invention provides the use of Arctigenin in medicaments for preventing or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

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Said “radiation” may be the radiation received during the process of radiotherapy, or those radiations of other sources, such as those of working or environmental causes. Preferably, the radiations according to the use of the present invention are received in the process of radiotherapy, for example, radiations received during the radiotherapy 10 process for the treatment of cancers.

Said “chemicals” may refer to any drugs or chemicals capable of causing the blood cell reduction. In one embodiment, the chemicals according to the use of the present invention are chemotherapeutic drugs for treating cancer. Said chemotherapeutic 15 drugs include alkylating drugs, anti-metabolic drugs, antibiotics, plant-based drugs and hormone drugs, which, however, are not limited thereto. The alkylating drugs include, but not limited to, mechlorethamine, cyclophosphamide, thiotepa, cyclohexylnitrosourea, Myleran, dacarbazine and methylbenzyl hydrazine; said anti-metabolic drugs include, but not limited to, fluorouracil (5-FU), ftorafur (FT-207), 20 Tegadifur (FD-1), uracil-tegafur (UFT), furtulon (5-DFUR), methotrexate (MTX), aminopterinum, arabinocytidine (Ara-c), cyclocytidine, cyclocyclidine hydrochloride, hydroxyurea (HU), inosine dialdehyde, adenosine dialdehyde (adenosinediialde-hgde), guanazole, 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP); said antibiotics includes, but not limited to, penicillins antibiotic, cephalosporins antibiotic, aminoglycosides antibiotics, 25 macrolides antibiotic, sulfonamides antibiotic, quinolones antibiotics, furans antibiotic; said plant-based drugs are plant-derived drugs, which include traditional Chinese herbal prescription drugs and those obtained from the effective parts of plants by modern means of extraction and separation or Chinese medicine monomer drugs; said hormone drugs include, but not limited to, glucocorticoid, adrenal cortical hormone,

norepinephrine hormone, progesterone, estrogen, androgen.

Preferably, said chemotherapy drugs for treating cancer are, but not limited to, Docetaxel, imatinib mesylate, or a combination thereof.

5

The second aspect of the present invention relates to the method of preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, which comprises the step of administering to the subjects in need of said treatment or prevention an effective amount of Arctigenin.

10

Said “subjects” may be mammals, such as human.

15

Said “effective amount” includes a therapeutically effective amount and a prophylactically effective amount. “A therapeutically effective amount” refers to an amount capable of achieving the desired therapeutic results (e.g. the desired result of treatment of bone marrow suppression) as administered within a necessary period of time. It is understood that a therapeutically effective amount of arctigenin varies according to the route of administration, different nature of the treatment, the age, sex, weight, and health status of patients, as well as the type of radiotherapy or 20 chemotherapy and other factors, which is ultimately decided by the clinicians involved in the treatment. The dosing regimen may be adjusted to provide optimal treatment effects. A therapeutically effective amount can also be an amount of which the beneficial therapeutic effect more than any toxic or harmful effects. “A prophylactically effective amount” refers to an amount capable of achieving the desired preventive 25 effect (e.g., prevention or protection of bone marrow function, or the maintenance of the hematopoietic cells) as administered within a necessary period of time. The prophylactic administration is usually taken ahead of the occurrence of diseases or at the earlier stage of diseases. Accordingly, a prophylactically effective amount may be lower than a therapeutically effective amount.

An effective amount of Arctigenin used for preventing or treating blood cell reduction, preferably for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression, particularly the radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression ranges from 0.1 to 1000 mg/kg/d, preferably 1~100 mg/kg/d, more preferably 5 to 50 mg/kg/d, for example,

5 10 mg/kg/d.

In addition, according to the present invention, Arctigenin can be used as the sole active ingredient for preventing and/or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, preferably for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression, particularly

10 the radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression, and may also be used in combination with other drugs for achieving such prevention and/or treatment.

Other drugs that may be used in combination with Arctigenin may be one or more of other drugs for use in treating leukopenia (such as vitamin B4, leucogen, batilol, 15 coenzyme A), or one or more drugs capable of increasing the number of platelet (such as interleukin-II, low-dose glucocorticoids, such as prednisone) for preventing or treating blood cell reduction, particularly for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression.

20 According to one embodiment, as used in combination with other drugs in the medical use of the present invention, the weight ratio of two drugs can be appropriately adjusted according to the condition and symptoms of the patients, the weight ratio of other drugs and Arctigenin preferably ranges from (0.005-100): 1, more preferably (0.005-50): 1, most preferably (0.01-100): 1, for example (0.05-25): 1.

25

Although Arctigenin can be used in combination with other drugs, Arctigenin is preferably used as the sole active ingredient for preventing and/or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

The administration routes of Arctigenin and optionally other drugs include gastrointestinal route and parenteral route. Parenteral route includes, but not limited to, subcutaneous, intradermal, arterial, intravenous, intramuscular, articular, intrathecal, intracranial, intrapleural, intraperitoneal injection or infusion, nasal, buccal, 5 sublingual, intratracheal, intraurethral, intrarectal, or local administration.

In the use of arctigenin in preventing and/or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression, Arctigenin may be administered before, during or after radiotherapy or chemotherapy. In the combined use of Arctigenin with other drugs, 10 Arctigenin may be administered concurrently or sequentially with other drugs.

The third aspect of the present invention relates to a formulation for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, which comprises Arctigenin and pharmaceutically acceptable pharmaceutical excipients. Said formulation is preferably 15 used for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression, particularly the radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression.

In the present invention, “pharmaceutically acceptable pharmaceutical excipients” refer to any substances that do not interfere with the physiological role of Arctigenin, 20 and being non-toxic to subjects including humans.

The pharmaceutical excipients used in the formulation of the present invention are conventional excipients well-known in the art. Appropriate pharmaceutical excipients are described in details in <The Complete Collection of Pharmaceutical Excipients> 25 (Page 123, Sichuan Technology and Science Press, 1993, Edited by LUO Ming-sheng, GAO Tian-hui). For example, the pharmaceutical excipients commonly employed for preparing microemulsion formulation include, but not limited to, soybean oil, polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether, 1,2-propanediol, hydrogenated coconut oil glycerides, lauroyl polyethylene glycol-32-glyceride, polyethylene glycol 3350, safflower oil, cotton

seed oil, decaglyceryl monostearate; the pharmaceutical excipients commonly employed for preparing dropping pill formulation include, but not limited to, polyethylene glycol 6000, polyethylene glycol 1000; the pharmaceutical excipients commonly employed for preparing capsule formulation include, but not limited to, 5 lactose and corn starch. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers commonly employed for preparing soft capsule formulation include, but not limited to, medium chain fatty acid glyceride, polyoxyethylene castor oil and 1,2-propanediol.

Pharmaceutical excipients can be suitably selected by a person skilled in the art 10 according to the actual needs, by which, the formulation of the present invention can be formulated according to the method commonly employed in the art (see, for example, the Chinese patent application CN101134031A). Said formulation includes, but not limited to, solids, liquids, oils, emulsions, gels, aerosols, inhalation, spray, capsule, pills, patches and suppositories.

15

According to one preferred embodiment, the dosage forms of the formulation of the present invention are those adapted to the gastrointestinal or parenteral administration, preferably tablets, emulsions, microemulsion formulation, capsule formulation, dropping pill or soft capsule, more preferably microemulsion formulation 20 having the preferable mean particle diameter of 15-80 nm.

The beneficial effects of Arctigenin of the present invention in preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, particularly in preventing or treating radiation or chemical induced bone marrow suppression include, but not limited to:

25 1) prevention of the decline in leukocytes in the treatment of cancer, and even the number of neutrophils, whereby enhancing the anti-tumor chemotherapy effect, prolonging the survival period of cancer patients, improving the quality of life. From the experimental effects of the effect of Arctigenin on the bone marrow suppression induced by chemotherapy in tumor-bearing mice, it is found that Arctigenin has the

unexpected effect on alleviating bone marrow suppression. More specifically, the Arctigenin group showed an increase in both the total white blood cell count and the total neutrophil count with an extremely significant difference ($P<0.01$) or significant difference ($P<0.05$) as comparing with the model group; meanwhile, the Arctigenin 5 group showed significant increases in total white blood cell count and total neutrophil count with an extremely significant difference ($P < 0.01$) as comparing with the Docetaxel group and the imatinib mesylate group.

2) Arctigenin can be used simultaneously with chemotherapeutic agents. Arctigenin can also be used for prophylaxis rather than administered only after the appearance of 10 leucopenia, so as to reduce side effects to some extent. Additionally, it can be seen from the experimental results that, Arctigenin, even used as an anti-tumor agent in combination with Docetaxel or Imatinib Mesylate, not only functions to inhibit tumor growth, but also relieves myelosuppression caused by Docetaxel or Imatinib Mesylate. Therefore, Arctigenin can be used simultaneously with chemotherapeutic agents.

15 Arctigenin can also be used for prophylaxis rather than administered only after the appearance of leucopenia, so as to insure the tumor-inhibiting rate and promote bone marrow hematopoiesis at the same time, increase white blood cell count and neutrophil count, and reduce side effects to some extent. The effects of Arctigenin for relieving myelosuppression may relate with its ability for promoting the proliferation 20 and re-generation of hemopoietic stem cells in bone marrow. As can be seen from the experimental data in Table 1, there is no significant difference in the weight of mice in Arctigenin groups (either administered alone or in combination with other agents) with mice in Model Group during the period of administration. No significant difference was observed in the feed intake and living status of the animals. The results 25 indicate that Arctigenin, as an anti-tumor agent and myelosuppression-releasing agent, does not have significant toxic or side effects.

3) Arctigenin has a significant effect for preventing or treating bone marrow suppression produced during the radiotherapy process. As can be seen from the experimental results of the effects of Arctigenin on white blood cell and platelet of

mice received ^{60}Co radiation at 4Gy (Table 3), Arctigenin exhibited unexpected effects in alleviating myelosuppression caused by radiotherapy. Specifically, the Arctigenin group shows an increase in both total white blood cell count and the platelet count with extremely significant difference ($P < 0.01$) or significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in 5 comparison with the model group; and also a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) as comparing with burdock extract group.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention

The present invention will be described further with reference to the following 10 embodiments, which, however, is not limited to the following examples.

Example 1 Preparation of Arctigenin

- (1) taking 1 kg burdock, adding an appropriate amount of hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid to adjust the pH to about 1.5 for undergoing hydrolysis at 65°C for 6 15 hours;
- (2) discarding the acidic hydrolyzate, washing the aqueous solution of burdock extract with water until the pH reaches neutral, drying at 80°C to obtain product A;
- (3) dissolving product A using an appropriate amount of ethanol, and heating to reflux to obtain the ethanol extract;
- 20 (4) cool-precipitating the resultant ethanol extract at 4°C, and removing the precipitate by centrifuging in a tube centrifuge at 2000r/min, collecting the supernatant from the centrifugation;
- (5) drying the supernatant to obtain product B;
- (6) grinding product B into powder, adding dichloromethane, extracting for 2.5 hours, 25 distilling dichloromethane extract under reduced pressure to obtain the crude Arctigenin having the purity 65%;
- (7) Purifying the crude Arctigenin extract by preparative high performance liquid chromatography to give the crude Arctigenin:

The crude Arctigenin extract was dissolved in acetonitrile-water solvent (acetonitrile:

water = 2:3, v/v), and purified by preparative high performance liquid chromatography after filtration. Octadecylsilane bonded silica microspheres (Sepax, purchased from Hai Shu Heng Long Shi Yan Qi Cai Co., Ltd., Ning Bo) having a particle size of 10um was used as the filler; mobile phase is composed of acetonitrile-water (acetonitrile: water = 2:3, v/v); flow rate: 260 ml/min to 330 ml/min, injection volume: 50-100ml; isocratic elution; UV detector online detection, the detection wavelength: 280nm. The preparative components of Arctigenin were specifically collected to afford the Arctigenin solution; the Arctigenin solution was subjected to distillation under reduced pressure to remove acetonitrile and water, giving Arctigenin of high purity (99.5% as determined by HPLC).

Example 2: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

Arctigenin	10g
soybean oil	35g
polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether	60g
1,2-propanediol	30g

15 Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of soybean oil, polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether and 1,2-propanediol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation. Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was 20 determined as 15nm on average.

Example 3: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

Arctigenin	0.1g
hydrogenated coconut oil glycerides	5g
lauroyl polyethylene glycol-32-glyceride	20g
1,2-propanediol	5g
polyethylene glycol 3350	20g

Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of hydrogenated coconut oil glycerides, 5 lauroyl polyethylene glycol-32-glyceride, 1,2-propanediol and polyethylene glycol 3350 were weighed, mixed and stirred well, Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation. Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was determined as 40nm on 10 average.

Example 4: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

Arctigenin	10g
safflower oil	35g
polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether	60g
1,2-propanediol	30g

15 Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of safflower oil, polyoxyethylene-23-lauryl ether and 1,2-propanediol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation.

Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was determined as 36nm on average.

Example 5: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

5

Arctigenin	10g
Cotton seed oil	30g
decaglyceryl monostearate	55g
1,2-propanediol	25g

Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of cotton seed oil, decaglyceryl monostearate and 1,2-propanediol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for 10 accelerating the dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation. Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was determined as 80nm on average..

Example 6: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

15

Arctigenin	2g
soybean oil	30g
decaglyceryl monostearate	55g
1,2-propanediol	25g

Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of soybean oil, decaglyceryl monostearate and 1,2-propanediol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the 20 dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation.

Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was determined as 47nm on average..

Example 7: Arctigenin microemulsion formulation

5

Arctigenin	1g
soybean oil	30g
decaglyceryl monostearate	55g
1,2-propanediol	25g

Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of soybean oil, decaglyceryl monostearate and 1,2-propanediol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the 10 dissolution, to give a clear solution, namely Arctigenin microemulsion formulation. Laser particle size analyzer was used to determine the particle size, which was determined as 58nm on average..

Example 8: Arctigenin dropping pills formulation

15

Arctigenin	5.0 g
polyethylene glycol -6000	14.5 g
polyethylene glycol -1000	5.0 g
Formulated into 1000 pills	

Preparation process: a prescriptive amount of Arctigenin (sieved by a 100 mesh) was weighed, and added into a mixed solution comprising prescriptive amounts of polyethylene glycol 6000 and polyethylene glycol 1000 being melted on a heated 20 water bath, mixed well, and placed in a dropping bottle, the dropping process was

performed at of $95\pm2^{\circ}\text{C}$; dipping into a glass condenser column containing 4-6 mL of methyl silicone oil, which was then taken out after molding, and wiped off the methyl silicone oil attached thereon using an absorption paper.

5 **Example 9: enteric soft capsule formulation of Arctigenin**

Formulation of content material:

Arctigenin	10 g
anhydrous ethanol	10 g
1,2-propanediol	10 g
polyoxyethylene castor oil	50 g
medium chain fatty acid glycerides	20 g

10 Formulation of capsule shell:

gelatin	10 g
glycerin	5 g
purified water	10 g

Formulation of entric coating solution:

Eudragit L30D-55	100 g
triethyl citrate	3 g
talc powder	7.5 g
purified water	200 g

Preparation process: prescriptive amounts of medium chain fatty acid glycerides, polyoxyethylene castor oil, 1,2-propanediol and anhydrous ethanol were weighed, mixed and stirred well. Arctigenin was added and dissolved, where ultrasonic treatment was optionally used for accelerating the dissolution, to give a clear 5 concentrated liquor, namely Arctigenin microemulsion concentrate. To the resultant microemulsion concentrate was added water according to a weight ratio of 1: 10-20 for dilution to give a clear solution, namely the soft capsule microemulsion fill material. Prescriptive amounts of gelatin, glycerin and purified water were weighed, mixed well and pressed into the capsule shell. Prescriptive amounts of Eudragit L30D-55, triethyl 10 citrate, talc powder and purified water were weighed and mixed well to give the enteric coating solution. The Arctigenin-containing soft capsule microemulsion content material was encapsulated in capsule shells and formulated into soft capsules, on which were coated with enteric coating to provide the enteric soft capsules.

15 **Example 10: Arctigenin capsules**

Arctigenin	100 g
lactose	120 g
corn starch	130 g
magnesium stearate	5 g

Preparation process: 100g of Arctigenin, 120g of lactose and 130g of corn starch were mixed in a mixer for 10-15 minutes, followed by addition of 5g of magnesium stearate, 20 mixed for further 1-3 minutes, which was then encapsulated in 1000 capsule shells.

Example 11 Effects of Arctigenin on Myelosuppression caused by chemotherapy in tumor-bearing mice

1. Materials

5

1.1 Animals: Kunming mice (purchased from National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, China; Laboratory Animal NO: SCXK II – 00-0010; female/male ratio at 1:1; Age: 7 weeks; Body weight: 18~22 g) were kept at 20 ± 1°C, 40%-70% humidity and offered with normal feed and water *ad libitum*.

10

1.2 Agents

Agents	Sources/Manufacturers
Arctigenin	Prepared according to Example 1; Purity 99.3%
Docetaxel	Hangzhou Sanofi-Aventis Minsheng Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
Imatinib Mesylate	Beijing Novartis Pharma Ltd
Murine cancer cell line s180	Shanghai Aiyan Biotechnical Co., Ltd.
1640 culture medium	Shanghai Yansheng Biochemical Agents Co., Ltd.

2. Methods

15 The murine cancer cell line s180 was cultured in 1640 culture medium at 37°C, 5% CO₂, sub-cultured every two days on average till logarithmic growth phase and then prepared into single cell suspension at 3.0 x 10⁷ cell/ml with physiological saline. The cell suspension was injected into abdominal cavity of mice under sterile conditions. The mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation at 7 days after inoculation when the 20 abdominal cavity expanded obviously, and then soaked in a flask with 75% ethanol for

2-3 min. The sterilized mice were placed on a superclean bench with abdomen exposed. The ascites were taken with sterile injectors and stored in sterile vials for further use. The ascites was counted by Trypan blue staining, and then diluted to 2.0 x 10⁷ cell/ml with physiological saline. The animals were inoculated with the dilutions in 5 the right armpit at 0.2ml/animal.

The inoculated animals were divided randomly into following six groups with 10 animals each group (F:M = 1:1):

1. Model Group (Group M): receiving peritoneal injection of 0.9% physiological saline;
- 10 2. Docetaxel Group (Group D): receiving 75 mg/m²/d Docetaxel;
3. Imatinib Mesylate Group (Group IM): receiving 222.2 mg/m²/d Imatinib Mesylate;
4. Arctigenin Group (Group A): receiving 10 mg/m²/d Arctigenin;
5. Docetaxel plus Arctigenin Group (Group D + A): receiving 75 mg/m²/d Docetaxel plus 10 mg/m²/d Arctigenin;
- 15 6. Imatinib Mesylate plus Arctigenin Group (Group IM + A): receiving 222.2 mg/m²/d Imatinib Mesylate plus 10 mg/m²/d Arctigenin.

Docetaxel and Imatinib Mesylate were administered via tail vein injection at dosages of 20 ml/kg. Arctigenin was administered via peritoneal injection at a dosage of 10 ml/kg. The administration was given to each group once per day for 10 days in total. During the experimental process, the animals were observed everyday for their diets, survivals and behaviors and weighted every day. At the end of the experiment, the animals were anaesthetized and anatomize to draw blood from abdominal vena cava for blood routine examination, including total white blood cell count, total platelet count and neutrophil count.

3. Results

Table 1: Effects of Arctigenin on Body Weight of mice

Groups	Sample number	Before administration (g)	the fifth day of administration (g)	The Tenth Day of administration (g)
Group M	10	21.2 ± 2.6	30.3 ± 4.1	30.3 ± 4.3
Group D	10	21.2 ± 1.8	28.1 ± 2.5	27.2 ± 3.2
Group	10	21.3 ± 2.3	29.6 ± 3.2	30.0 ± 3.6
IM				
Group A	10	21.1 ± 3.0	27.9 ± 4.2	27.9 ± 3.8
Group	10	21.0 ± 2.9	28.4 ± 3.7	27.3 ± 3.5
D+A				
Group	10	21.3 ± 3.5	28.8 ± 3.0	30.1 ± 4.9
IM+A				

5 As can be seen from the experimental data in Table 1, there is no significant difference in the weight of mice between Arctigenin groups (either administered Arctigenin alone or in combination with other agents) and mice in Model Group during the period of administration. No significant difference was observed in the feed intake and living quality of the animals. The results indicate that Arctigenin, as an anti-tumor agent and 10 myelosuppression-releasing agent, does not have significant toxic or side effects.

Table 2: Effects of Arctigenin on neutrophil among white blood cells of Tumor-bearing mice

Groups	Sample number	White Blood Cells ($10^9/L$)	Neutrophil ($10^9/L$)	platelet ($10^9/L$)
Group M	10	2.831 ± 0.32	1.128 ± 0.18	508.3 ± 38.6
Group D	10	2.773 ± 0.46	0.670 ± 0.12	450.6 ± 30.5

Groups	Sample number	White Blood	Neutrophil	platelet ($10^9/L$)
		Cells ($10^9/L$)	($10^9/L$)	
Group IM	10	2.703 ± 0.37	0.695 ± 0.09	432.9 ± 34.8
Group A	10	$3.530 \pm 0.31^{###\$\$}$	$1.316 \pm 0.15^{###\$\$}$	$687.4 \pm 37.3^{##}$
Group D+A	10	$3.288 \pm 0.34^{###\$\$}$	$1.301 \pm 0.16^{###\$\$}$	$598.7 \pm 25.8^{##}$
Group IM+A	10	2.895 ± 0.43	$1.076 \pm 0.20^{###\$\$}$	$623.1 \pm 27.9^{###\$\$}$

Compared with Group M: $^{\#}P < 0.05$, $^{##}P < 0.01$;

Compared with Group D: $^{*}P < 0.05$, $^{**}P < 0.01$;

Compared with Group IM: $^{\$}P < 0.05$, $^{##\$}P < 0.01$.

5 As can be seen from the experimental effects of Arctigenin on myelosuppression caused by chemotherapy in tumor-bearing mice (Table 2), the neutrophil numbers of the mice in Group D or IM decreased significantly in comparison with Group M. In contrast, Arctigenin exhibited the unexpected effect on alleviating bone marrow suppression. More specifically, the Arctigenin group showed an increase in both the 10 total white blood cell count and the total neutrophil count with extremely significant difference ($P < 0.01$) or significant difference ($P < 0.05$) as comparing with the model group; meanwhile, the Arctigenin group showed significant increases in total white blood cell count and total neutrophil count with an extremely significant difference ($P < 0.01$) as comparing with the Docetaxel group and the imatinib mesylate group.

15

Additionally, it can be seen from the experimental results that, Arctigenin, when used as an anti-tumor agent in combination with Docetaxel or Imatinib Mesylate, not only functions to inhibit tumor growth, but also relieve myelosuppression caused by Docetaxel or Imatinib Mesylate. Therefore, Arctigenin can be used simultaneously with 20 other chemotherapeutic agents. Arctigenin can also be used for prophylaxis rather than administered only after the appearance of leucopenia, so as to insure the tumor-inhibiting rate and promote bone marrow hematopoiesis at the same time,

increase white blood cell count and neutrophil count, and reduce side effects to some extent. The effects of Arctigenin for relieving myelosuppression may relate with its ability for promoting the proliferation and re-generation of hemopoietic stem cells in bone marrow.

5

Example 12: Effects of Arctigenin on Blood cell counts of mice under ^{60}Co radiation

1. Materials

10 1.1 Animals: Kunming mice (purchased from National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, China; Laboratory Animal NO: SCXK II – 00-0010; female/male ratio at 1:1; Age: 7 weeks; Body weight: 18~22 g) were kept at 20 ± 1°C, 40%-70% humidity and offered with normal feed and water *ad libitum*.

15 1.2 Agents

Agents	Sources/Manufacturers
Arctigenin	Prepared according to Example 1; Purity 99.3%
Extracts of <i>Arctium lappa</i>	Prepared according to the following extraction process

2. Methods

20 Excepting the normal group (n = 10), the mice of the other groups all received ^{60}Co radiation at onetime of 4Gy (whole body radiation; absorbed dose = 4Gy; absorbed dose rate = 0.88Gy/min). At 3, 7 and 10 days after radiation, blood samples were collected from orbital vein for detection of whole blood cell count. The mice whose white blood cell counts were lower than $3.0 \times 10^9 / \text{L}$ or platelet counts were lower than $500 \times 10^9 / \text{L}$ in successive two whole blood cell detections were eliminated from

the experiment. The rest mice were included in the experiment.

The mice fulfilled the experimental requirements after radiation were divided randomly into the following groups of: model group, group of burdock extract and

5 Arctigenin group (each group: n = 10; F/M = 1:1). Each group was subjected to treatment or administration as follows:

1. Normal Group (Group N): peritoneal injection of 0.9% physiological saline at a volume of 10 ml/kg;

2. Model Group (Group M): peritoneal injection of 0.9% physiological saline at a dose

10 of 10 mg/kg;

3. Group of burdock Extract (Group E): peritoneal injection of water exacts of *Arctium lappa* at a dose of 3.5 ml/kg/d;

4. Arctigenin Group (Group A): peritoneal injection of 10 mg/kg/d Arctigenin at a volume of 10 ml/kg.

15

Said burdock extract was prepared by: 1) placing burdock in a pot, adding water till the

plant was immerged; 2) soaking burdock for 30min for promoting the extraction of the effective components; 3) rapidly heating till boiling, fully boiling for 1-3min, further

heating for 20-30min for concentration, and filtrating through sterile gauzes into a

20 beaker; and 4) mixing the first dose with re-extracted agents uniformly after the first extraction for balancing their effects. 200ml water extracts were prepared from 1kg burdock.

The administration was given to each group once per day for 10 days in total. During

25 the experimental process, the animals were observed everyday for their diets, survivals and behaviors and weighted every day. At the end of the experiment, the

animals were anaesthetized and anatomize to take blood from abdominal vena cava for blood routine examination, including total white blood cell count and total platelet count.

3. Results

Table 3: Effects of Arctigenin on white blood cell and platelet of mice received ^{60}Co radiation at 4Gy

Groups	Sample number	White Blood Cells ($10^9/\text{L}$)	platelet ($10^9/\text{L}$)
Group N	10	4.926 \pm 0.50	678.2 \pm 78.5
Group M	10	2.535 \pm 0.38	482.0 \pm 54.2
Group E	10	3.242 \pm 0.45	524.5 \pm 74.6
Group A	10	4.225 \pm 0.51 ^{##\$}	596.2 \pm 72.5 ^{#\$}

5 Compared with Group M: $^{\#}\text{P} < 0.05$, $^{##}\text{P} < 0.01$;

Compared with Group E: $^{\$}\text{P} < 0.05$.

As can be seen from the experimental results of the effects of Arctigenin on white blood cell and platelet of mice received ^{60}Co radiation at 4Gy (Table 3), Arctigenin 10 exhibited unexpected effects in alleviating myelosuppression caused by radiotherapy. Specifically, the Arctigenin group shows an increase in both total white blood cell count and the platelet count with extremely significant difference ($\text{P} < 0.01$) or significant difference ($\text{P} < 0.05$) in comparison with the model group; and also a significant difference ($\text{P} < 0.05$) as comparing with burdock extract group.

15

Example 13: Effects of Arctigenin on white blood cell and platelet of NOD mouse

Non-obese diabetic or NOD mice is a large mouse strain, including NOD/Scid, NOD/Ltj mice and the like. Yi Feng (Yi Feng, et al., "In vitro Expansion of Cord Blood 20 Megakaryocyte Progenitor", *ACTA Academiae Medicinae Sinicae*, Vol.27, NO.2, pp 199-204) directly expanded megakaryocyte progenitor from cord blood CD34+ cells by using thrombopoietin (TPO), interleukin-11 (IL-11) and heparin in combination. Intravenous infusion of the megakaryocytes expanded for 7 days (at a concentration of

5×10^6) into NOD/SCID mice received pre-treatment of radiation could accelerate the recovery of platelet and white blood cell account and improved the survival of the mice. The NOD/LTJ mice used in this example are immune-defect mice with significantly decreased white blood cell and platelet in comparison with normal mice.

5

1. Materials

1.1 Animals: 52 NOD/Ltj mice (purchased from Vital River Laboratory Animal Technology Co., Ltd., Beijing; Laboratory Animal NO: SCXK (BJ) 2006-2009), female, Age: 10 weeks, Body weight: 16-20 g.

1.2 Agents

Interleukin, purchased from Sino Biological Inc., Beijing;
15 Pentobarbital sodium, purchased from Shanghai Kefeng Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd.;
Arctigenin, prepared according to Example 1; Purity 99.3%.

2. Groups and Administration

20 After one week of adaptive feeding, healthy NOD mice aged of 5 weeks were divided randomly into 4 groups:
I. Model Control Group: 13 animals;
II. Positive Control Group: 13 animals receiving gavage of interleukin at dose of 10.0 mg/kg every day;
25 III. Low-dose Arctigenin Group: 13 animals receiving gavage of interleukin at dose of 30 mg/kg every day;
IV. High-dose Arctigenin Group: 13 animals receiving gavage of interleukin at dose of 60 mg/kg every day.

The administration was given consecutively to each group once per day, and stopped after 15 days. The animals were then anaesthetized (3% pentobarbital sodium via intraperitoneal injection at 0.1~0.15 ml/animal) and 1 ml blood was taken via abdominal vena cava for blood routine examination.

5

Table 4: Effects of Arctigenin on white blood cell and platelet of NOD mouse

Groups	Sample number	White Blood	platelets ($10^9/L$)
		Cells ($10^9/L$)	
Model Control Group	13	2.535±0.38	508.3±38.6
Interleukin Group	13	2.683±0.35	524.5±74.6
Low-dose Arctigenin Group	13	3.242±0.45 ^{#\$}	730.5±34.6 ^{##\$}
High-dose Arctigenin Group	13	4.225±0.51 ^{##\$}	780.2±46.5 ^{##\$\$}

Compared with Model Control Group: $^{\#}P < 0.05$, $^{##}P < 0.01$;

Compared with Interleukin Group: $^{\$}P < 0.05$, $^{##\$}P < 0.01$.

10 As can be seen from Table 4, the white blood cell counts and platelet counts of low-dose and high-dose arctigenin groups were significantly higher than these of model group, indicating significantly therapeutic effects. Compared with positive control (interleukin for preventing decrease of platelet) group, arctigenin groups exhibited significant advantage regarding increase of blood cell count ($P < 0.05$), and
 15 significantly increased platelet count, improved immunity. Especially, the high-dose arctigenin group showed significant advantage in its ability of increasing white blood cell count and platelet count, compared with the other groups.

20 The present invention provides a novel route for developing arctigenin, provides an ideal natural reagent for reducing toxic and side effects of radiotherapy or chemotherapy, and thus could bring favorably economic and social benefit.

All publications mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference. Although the present invention has been described in connection with specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various 5 modifications of the described modes for carrying out the invention which are obvious to those skilled in biochemistry and biotechnology or related fields are intended to be within the scope of the following claims.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Use of arctigenin for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction.
2. The use according to claim 1, wherein said medicament is used for treating thrombocytopenia, bone marrow suppression or anemia.
3. The use according to claim 2, wherein said bone marrow suppression is bone marrow suppression induced by radiation or a chemical.
4. The use according to claim 3, characterized in that said chemical is a chemotherapeutic agent for treating cancer.
5. The use according to claim 4, wherein said chemotherapeutic agent for treating cancer is docetaxel or imatinib mesylate.
6. The use according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein said bone marrow suppression is characterized by a decline in the number of peripheral blood leukocytes or thrombocytopenia, bone marrow dysplasia or aplastic anemia.
7. The use according to claim 6, wherein the bone marrow suppression is characterized by reduction in peripheral blood neutrophils.
8. The use according to claim 2, wherein said thrombocytopenia is thrombocytopenia induced by radiotherapy or chemotherapy, or congenital thrombocytopenia.
9. The use according to claim 8, wherein the congenital thrombocytopenia is idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura.

10. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the arctigenin is used as the sole active ingredient.
11. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the medicament comprises arctigenin and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
12. A method for preventing or treating diseases related to blood cell reduction, comprising a step of administering to a subject in need of said treatment or prevention an effective amount of arctigenin.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the method is used for treating or preventing bone marrow suppression induced by radiation or chemicals.
14. A method for stimulating the production of blood cell in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of arctigenin.