# Evaluation of coumarin and their derivatives as Janus Kinase-3 inhibitors using a theoretical model

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# **Abstract**

For several years, cancer has increased in the population, being one of the main causes of death worldwide. This clinical pathology is associated with the activation/release of various biomolecules, including the Janus kinase family (JAKs). It is important to mention that some studies indicate that some JAK inhibitors (ruxolitinib and tofacitinib) may have a significant effect on some autoimmune diseases and cancer; however, some of these drugs can produce secondary effects such as herpes zoster, infectious, acute respiratory distress and others. The aim of this study was to evaluate the interaction of coumarin and its derivatives (compounds 2 to 24) with the JAK-3 surface. In this way, the Interaction of coumarin and their derivatives with JAK-3 was determined using the 3pjc protein and either decernotinib or tofacitinib drugs as theoretical tools on DockinServer program. The results showed differences in the aminoacid residues involved in the interaction of coumarin and their derivatives with 3pjc protein surface compared with decernotinib and tofacitinib. Besides, the inhibition constant (Ki) for coumarin derivatives 7, 9 and 10 was lower compared with tofacitinib. However, Ki was lower for 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 24 compared with decernotinib. In conclusion, the coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 24 could be good alternatives as JAK-3 inhibitors to decrease cancer cells growth.

**Keywords:** cancer, Janus Kinase, JAK-3, coumarin.

# Avaliação da cumarina e seus derivados como inibidores da Janus Quinase-3 usando modelo teórico

## **Resumo**

Há vários anos, o câncer tem aumentado na população, sendo uma das principais causas de morte em todo o mundo. Esta patologia clínica está associada à ativação/liberação de várias biomoléculas, incluindo a família Janus quinase (JAKs). É importante mencionar que alguns estudos indicam que alguns inibidores de JAK (ruxolitinib e tofacitinib) podem ter um efeito significativo em algumas doenças autoimunes e no câncer; no entanto, algumas dessas drogas podem produzir efeitos secundários, como herpes zoster, infeccioso, desconforto respiratório agudo e outros. O objetivo deste estudo foi avaliar a interação da cumarina e seus derivados (compostos 2 a 24) com a superfície JAK-3. Desta forma, a interação da cumarina e seus derivados com JAK-3 foi determinada usando a proteína 3pjc e as drogas decernotinib ou tofacitinib como ferramentas teóricas no programa DockinServer. Os resultados mostraram diferenças nos resíduos de aminoácidos envolvidos na interação da cumarina e seus derivados com a superfície da proteína 3pjc em comparação com decernotinib e tofacitinib. Além disso, a constante de inibição (Ki) para os derivados cumarínicos 7, 9 e 10 foi menor em comparação com o tofacitinibe. No entanto, Ki foi menor para 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 e 24 em comparação com decernotinibe. Em conclusão, os derivados cumarínicos 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 e 24 podem ser uma boa alternativa como inibidores de JAK-3 para diminuir o crescimento de células cancerígenas.

**Palavras-chave:** câncer, Janus Quinase, JAK-3, cumarina.

# **1. Introduction**

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide (Xia et al., 2022; Siegel et al., 2022; Giaquinto et al., 2022; Miller et al., 2022). It is important to mention that several factors are involved in development this pathology clinic such as alcohol (Yoo et al., 2022; Im et al., 2022), obesity (Lazarus; Bays, 2022; Aminian et al., 2022), cigarette smoking (Hcht; Hatsukami, 2022; Phua et al., 2022), dietary fatty acid pattern (Wan et al., 2022; Tu et al., 2022).

Besides, there are some data indicating that some genetic factors may involving in cancer cells growth (De-Magalhães, 2022); for example, a study showed some mutations in KRAS gene (Kirten rat sarcoma viral) which were associated with colorectal cancer (Hayama et al., 2019). Other report indicate that BCR-ABL [\(transcript encodes a tyrosine kinase\) gene](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145212608002245) mutations are associated with different forms of leukaemia (Zhang et al., 2016). In addition, some studies suggest that either androgen receptor or 5α-reductase enzyme are two factors associated to prostate cancer (Sowalsky et al., 2022; Lopez-Ramos et al., 2023).

Other data showed that HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2) overexpression could condition tumor growth in patients with breast cancer (Asgari-Karchekani et al., 2022; Grupta et al., 2022). Besides, some studies indicate that MYC (family of regulator genes and proto-oncogenes that code for transcription factors) may contribute to the progression of various human cancers (Dhanasekaran et al., 2022; Ala, 2022). Other study shows that EGFR (Epidermal growth factor receptor) gene is mutated and overactive in many cancers, including lung, breast, esophageal, head, and neck cancers (Seshacharyulu et al., 2012; Sigismund et al., 2018).

On the other hand, there are some studies suggesting that Activation of JAKs (Janus kinase family; JAK-1, JAK-2 and JAK-3) is involved in cancer cells growth (Verma et al., 2003). For example, a study showed that The JAK3/ERK (Janus kinase-3/extra- cellular signal-regulated kinase) pathway might play an important role in EGFR-induced MMP-9 (matrix metallopeptidase 9) expression in breast cancer cells (Kim et al., 2009). Other study conducted in 932 clinical cases of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC) showed mutations in JAK2 and JAK3 using the Ion AmpliSeq Cancer Hotspot panel v2 assay (Li et al., 2017).

Besides, cell invasion of highly metastatic MTLn3 (a highly metastatic rat mammary adenocarcinoma cell line) cancer cells which is dependent of both phospholipase D2 (PLD2) and JAK-3 (Henkels et al., 2011). Another report suggests that JAK 3 may have a cytokine receptor-independent function; however, JAK-3 levels can increase in cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (Vadivel et al., 2021). All these data indicate that JAK-3 can produce changes in cancer cells growth. Here it is important to mention that some JAKs inhibitors have been used for treat some cancer cell lines; for example, a study showed that [ruxolitinib \(JAK1/2 inhibitor\) s](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41523-018-0060-z)ynergistically enhances the anti-tumor activity of paclitaxel in human ovarian cancer (Han et al., 2018).

Other data indicate that lestaurtinib (JAK-2 inhibitor) can produce cytotoxicity to leukemia cells in a dose‐response manner (Knapper et al., 2006). In addition, a report shows that treatment with itacitinib (JAK1 inhibitor) to patients with myelofibrosis can provide effective relief of symptoms related to this clinical pathology (Mascarenhas et al., 2017). Analyzing these data, the aim of this investigation was to evaluate theorethical activity of coumarin and their derivatives with JAK-3 using a 3pjc protein, decernotinib [selective JAK-3 inhibitor] (Genovese et al., 2016) and tofacitinib [JAK-1 and JAK-3 inhibitor (Shivanna et al., 2018) as theoretical tools (Figure 1) on DockingServer software.



Figure 1. Chemical stucture of Decernotinib and Tofacitinib. Source: Pubchem, 2023.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

*2.1 Methodology general*



Figure 2. Structure chemical of coumarin and their derivatives. Source: Pubchem, 2023. Note:

 $1 =$ chromen-2-one

2 = 6-methyl-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo $[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]$ heptadeca-1 (17),2(7),5,8-tetraen-4-one  $3 =$ 7-(dimethylamino)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-cyclopenta[c] chromen-4- one

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$$

 $4 =$ 6-(trifluoromethyl)-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo $[7.7.1.0^{2.7}]$ . 0<sup>13,17</sup>]- heptadeca-1(17),2(7),5,8-tetraen-4-one

 $5 = 7$ -(diethylamino)-3-(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl) chromen-2- one

 $6 =$  ethyl

 $13 = 3-(2-Bromo-acetyl)$ -chromen-2-one

 $14 =$ 3-(4-Cyano-7-diethylamino-2-oxo-2H-chromen-3-yl) -3-oxo- propionic acid methyl ester  $15 =$ *N*-(4-Methyl-2-oxo-2H-chromen-7-yl)-2-phenyl-acet amide 16 = 6-Bromo-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic acid (2,3-dichloro- phenyl)-amide  $17 =$ 7-Diethylamino-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic acid

4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo $[7.7.1.0^{2,7}.0^{13,17}]$ hepta-	18				
$deca-1,5,7,9(17)$ -tetraene-5-carboxylate	7-Diethylamino-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic				
7	acid 2,5- dioxo-pyrrolidin-1-yl ester				
5-acetyl-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo <sup>[7.7.1.02,7</sup> .0 <sup>13,17</sup> ]hepta	$19 = 7$ -Amino-4-trifluoromethyl-chromen-2-one				
deca-1, 5,7,9(17)-tetraen-4-one	20				
8	7-Diethylamino-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic				
4-oxo-3-oxa-13-azatetracyclo <sup>[7.7.1.0<sup>2,7</sup>.0<sup>13,17</sup>]heptade</sup>	acid $[3-(2.5 -$				
ca-1,5,7, 9(17)-tetraene-5-carboxylic acid	dioxo-2,5-dihydro-pyrrol-1-yl)-propyl]-amide				
9 $=$	$21 = 7$ -Ethoxy-4-trifluoromethyl-chromen-2-one				
3-(1,3-benzothiazol-2-yl)-7-(diethylamino)chromen-	$22 = 7$ -Hydroxy-4-trifluoromethyl-chromen-2-one				
$2$ -one	$23 = 7$ -Methoxy-4-trifluoromethyl-chromen-2-one				
10					
3-(1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)-7-(diethylamino)chromen-	24				
$2$ -one	7-Diethylamino-2-oxo-2H-chromene-3-carboxylic				
$11 = 2$ -oxochromene-3-carboxylic acid	acid 2,5-dioxo-pyrrolidin-1-yl ester				
12					
3-(4-Bromomethyl-phenyl)-7-diethylamino-chromen					

<sup>-2-</sup>one

# *2.2 Ligand-protein*

Binding of coumarin and their derivatives with JAK-3 was determined using 3pjc (PDB doi: [https://doi.org/10.2210/ pdb3PJC/pdb\)](../Downloads/ https:/doi.org/10.2210/%20pdb3PJC/pdb) protein (Thoma et al., 2011) as theoretical model. In addition, to evaluate the thermodynamic parameters involved in coumarin derivative-protein complex formation, the DockingServer program was used (Figuero-Valverde et al., 2023).

## *2.3 Pharmacokinetic parameters*

Theoretical pharmacokinetic involved in the chemical structure of coumarin derivatives (2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24) were determined using the SwissADME software (Rudik et al., 2022).

## *2.4 Toxicology evaluation*

Toxicity evaluation for coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24 was determined using GUSAR software (Rudik et al., 2022).

## **3. Results**

## *3.1 Ligand-protein complex*

In the table 1 showing different aminoacid residues involved in the coupling of coumarin and their derivatives (compounds 2-24) with 3pj protein surface.





Source: Authors, 2023.

# *3.2 Thermodynamic parameters*

The theoretical results indicate differences in the energy levels involved in the interaction of coumarin and its derivatives with JAK-3 (3pjc protein) compared with both decernotinib and tofacitinib drugs (Table 2).

Compound	$\mathbf{A}$	B	$\mathbf C$	$\mathbf{D}$	$\bf{E}$	F
Decernotinib	$-7.49$	3.22	$-8.24$	0.03	$-8.22$	
Tofacitinib	$-7.69$	2.30	$-8.60$	$-0.09$	$-8.69$	721.73
$\mathbf{1}$	$-4.78$	314.72	$-4.75$	$-0.03$	$-4.78$	407.53
$\overline{2}$	$-7.57$	2.82	$-7.59$	0.02	$-7.57$	600.46
3	$-6.55$	15.84	$-6.83$	$-0.02$	$-6.85$	588.15
$\overline{4}$	$-8.63$	471.84	$-8.92$	$-0.01$	$-8.93$	612.52
$\mathfrak s$	$-7.58$	2.78	$-8.77$	$-0.01$	$-8.78$	809.13
6	$-7.34$	4.15	$-8.11$	0.00	$-8.10$	715.80
$\boldsymbol{7}$	$-7.89$	1.64	$-8.20$	0.01	$-8.19$	656.04
8	$-7.59$	2.74	$-7.97$	0.08	$-7.89$	623.98
9	$-8.11$	1.13	$-8.95$	0.00	$-8.94$	822.28
10	$-7.90$	1.61	$-8.26$	$-0.02$	$-8.28$	778.34
11	$-4.78$	311.65	$-5.16$	0.08	$-5.08$	497.59
12	$-7.25$	4.85	$-8.61$	$-0.03$	$-8.63$	785.45
13	$-5.79$	56.73	$-6.15$	$-0.06$	$-6.21$	518.98
14	$-6.29$	24.69	$-8.09$	$-0.05$	$-8.14$	824.56
15	$-7.04$	6.91	$-7.86$	0.01	$-7.85$	734.52
16	$-9.27$	159.78	$-9.22$	0.00	$-9.22$	740.29
17	$-5.80$	55.82	$-6.82$	0.15	$-6.97$	612.56
18	$-6.62$	14.13	$-8.25$	0.00	$-8.26$	746.72
19	$-6.15$	31.21	$-6.69$	$-0.05$	$-6.74$	480.62
20	$-7.23$	5.04	$-8.31$	$-0.06$	$-8.37$	849.25
21	$-6.59$	14.74	$-7.56$	0.01	$-7.54$	575.39
22	$-6.20$	28.57	$-6.76$	$-0.04$	$-6.80$	485.37
23	$-6.49$	17.64	$-7.08$	$-0.02$	$-7.10$	534.03
24	$-7.59$	2.72	$-8.48$	$-0.02$	$-8.50$	607.16

Table 2. Thermodynamic parameters involved in the interaction of coumarin derivatives with 3pjc protein surface using DockingServer software.

Note:  $A = Est$ : Free Energy of Binding (kcal/mol);  $B = Inhibition Constant$ , Ki (mM);  $C = vdW + Hbond +$ desolv Energy (kcal/mol); **D** = Electrostatic Energy (kcal/mol); **E** = Total Intermolec. Energy (kcal/mol); **F** = Interact. Surface. Source: Authors, 2023.

## *3.3 Pharmacokinetic evaluation*

Table 3 shows that gastrointestinal (GI) absorption rate was high for either decernotinib or facitinib drugs and the coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8-10 and 24. In addition, The CYPs involved in the pharmacokinetic process were different.

Parameter		$_{II}$	2	5	7	8	9	10	24
GI absorption	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
<b>BBB</b> permeant	N <sub>0</sub>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
P-gp sustrate	Yes	Yes	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>	Yes	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>
CYP1A2 inhibitor	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CYP2C19 inhibitor	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	N <sub>o</sub>
$CYP2C9$ inhibitor	N <sub>0</sub>	No	No	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>	No	Yes	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>
CYP2D6 inhibitor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N <sub>o</sub>
CYP3A4 inhibitor	Yes	No	No	Yes	N <sub>0</sub>	No	Yes	Yes	N <sub>o</sub>
Consensus $LogP_{O/W}$	2.97	2.10	2.96	3.45	2.67	2.37	4.18	3.37	2.80

Table 3. Theorethical Pharmacokinetic parameters involved in decernotinib (I), tofacitinib (II), coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8-10 and 24.

Note: GI = Gastrointestinal; BBB = Blood-Brain-Barrier; P-gp = P-glycoprotein; CYP = Cytochrome P450;  $LogP_0/w = Octanol-water partition coefficient. Source: Authors, 2023.$ 

#### *3.4 Toxicology analysis*

Table 4 showed differences in the possible dose administered for either decernotinib or tofacitinib drugs and the coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8-10 and 24 through the different routes of administration.

Compound	Rat IP LD50 (mg/kg)	Rat IV LD50 (mg/kg)	Rat Oral LD50 (mg/kg)	Rat SC LD50 $(mg/kg)$
$\bf{I}$	661.30	128.50	1060.00	568.30
$\mathbf{I}$	98.70	37.27	954.80	268.20
2	200.80	19.23	382.00	342.20
5	187.50	55.23	628.20	298.00
7	182.20	29.05	538.90	587.90
8	406.70	102.80	552.20	560.00
9	266.00	90.20	594.30	597.30
10	168.70	58.54	503.60	514.10
24	342.80	134.50	391.20	1488.00

Table 4. Theoretical toxicity analysis produced by decernotinib (I), tofacitinib (II), coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8-10 and 24.

Note: IP - Intraperitoneal route of administration; IV - Intravenous route of administration; Oral - Oral route of administration; SC - Subcutaneous route of administration. Source:Authors, 2023.

#### **4. Discussion**

In the literature there are some studies indicating that JAK-3 may be associated with cancer cells growth (Verma et al., 2003; Kim et al., 2009; Li et al., 2017; Henkels et al., 2011; Vadivedel et al., 2021). For this reason, a theoretical study was conducted in this investigation to evaluate the possibility that coumarin and their derivatives could interact with JAK-3 surface using the DockingServer software.

#### *4.1 Ligand-protein analysis.*

Computer modeling has been developed and widely applied in studying molecules to evaluate their possible biological activity (Crampon et al., 2022; Ota et al., 2022; Zhang; Chen, 2022). Analyzing this data, the interaction of coumarin and their derivatives (compounds 2 to 24) with the JAK-3 surface was determined using the 3pjc protein (crystal Structure of JAK-3) as control. In addition, some JAK-3 inhibitors such as decernotinib and tofacitinib served as theoretical tools on DockingServer software. The results display different amino acid residues involved in the interaction of coumarin and their derivatives with 3pjc protein surface compared with decernotinib and tofacitinib; this phenomenon could be due to differences in their chemical structure.

# *4.2 Bond energies analysis*

There are some studies which suggest that protein-ligand complex formation could depend of several thermodynamic factors such as free energy of binding, inhibition constant, van der Waals + hidrogen bond + desolv energy (vdW + Hbond + desolv Energy), electrostatic energy and total intermolecular energy (Figueroa-Valverde et al., 2021). For this reason, in this research some thermodynamic parameters involved in the interaction of coumarin and its derivatives with the 3pjc surface protein were evaluated using the DockingServer model. The results (Table 2) showed differences in the energies levels for coumarin and their derivatives compared with decernotinib and tofacitinib.

Besides, inhibition constant (Ki) for coumarin derivatives 7, 9 and 10 was lower compared with tofacitinib. However, Ki was lower for 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24 compared with decernotinib. These data indicate that coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24 could inhibit the biological activity of JAK-3 and this phenomenon could be translated as decrease in cancer cells growth. However, it is important to mention that some pharmacokinetic parameters involved in the chemical structure of coumarin derivatives need to be evaluated in some cancer model.

# *4.3 Pharmacokinetic evaluation.*

In the literature, some methods to predict several pharmacokinetic parameters of different drugs have been used to determinate their biological activity (Nguyen et al., 2022; Valluri et al., 2022; Goutelle et al., 2022). For this reason, in this research, some pharmacokinetic factors for coumarin derivatives such as 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24 were determined using SwissADME software (Table 3).

The results indicate differences in gastrointestinal absorption and metabolism which involving several cytochrome P450 systems. This phenomenon could be to differences in the chemical structure of each coumarin derivatives and their degree of lipophilicity ( $\text{LogP}_{\text{O/W}}$ ).

# *4.4 Theoretical toxicity*

Several methods such as ProTox-II (Baren and Ulker, 2022), STopTox (Pokharkar et al., 2022), ToxAlert (Perez et al., 2001), q-Tox (Urios et al., 2006) for predict toxicity degree have been used. Analyzing these data, in this investigation the possible theoretical toxicity produced by coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8-10 and 24 was determined using the GUSAR software (Da-Rocha et al., 2022).

The results shown in Table 4 suggest that tofacitinib require low doses via either intravenous or intraperitoneal or subcutaneous routes to produce toxicity compared to coumarin derivatives. Besides, decernotinib require higher dose to produce toxicity compared with coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7 and 8-10; however, compound 24 require higher dose to produce toxicity compared with decernotinib. These results could be due to differences in their lipophilicity degree of each coumarin.

# **5. Conclusions**

This study reports the interaction of coumarin derivatives, decernotinib and tofacitinib with JAK-3. The results showed that the coumarin derivatives 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 24 could be a good alternative as JAK-3 inhibitors and this phenomenon could translate into a decrease in cancer cell growth.

# **6. Auhors' Contributions**

*Figueroa-Valverde Lauro*: substantial contribution to research design, acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. *Diaz-Cedillo Francisco*: substantial contribution to research design. *Diaz-Cedillo Francisco*: acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. *Alvarez-Ramirez Magdalena*: acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. *Rosas-Nexticapa Marcela*: acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. *Lopez-Ramos Maria*: acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. *Mateu-Armand Virginia*: acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data. Approval of the submitted and final versions: all authors.

#### **7. Funding**

This research received no external funding.

#### **8. Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that this research has no conflict of interest with any public or private association.

#### **9. Ethics Approval**

Not applicable.

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