

Several extracts from plants, food, oriental medicinal herb using yeast containing recombinant estrogen receptor or androgen receptor

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phytoestrogens naturally occur estrogen-like molecules in plants. Phytoestrogens have the ability to bind estrogen receptors and may have beneficial effects in coronary artery disease, osteoporosis and breast cancer. We used a recombinant yeast assay to assess the hormonal activity of 133 natural products from plants, food, oriental medicinal herb. The results were shown that fifteen of these natural products displayed hormonal activity: 10 with potencies relative to 17β -estradiol, ranging from 36.7^{-1} to 3.67^{-1} , 3 with potencies relative to testosterone, ranging from 34.7^{-1} to 3.47^{-1} , and 2 with potencies with 17β -estradiol and testosterone. Among them, 108 products have no estrogen activities. The present study suggests that some natural products may be phytoestrogens and have possibilities to treat estrogen-sensitive chronic diseases such as atherosclerosis, osteoporosis and breast cancer.