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REVIEW ON DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM UTILIZING EUGENOL FROM TULSI FOR THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS ON COVID-19

MR. KATKAR ANIKET S.[1], DR. GAWADE SHIVAJI. P.[2]

[1] FINAL YEAR B. PHARM. STUDENT LNBCIOP, RAIGAON, SATARA
[2] PROFESSOR LNBCIOP, RAIGAON, SATARA

ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic, which was brought on by the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, has made it imperative to find efficient treatment solutions. In order to treat COVID-19, this research suggests using a drug delivery system with eugenol derived from tulsi, or holy basil. Tulsi contains a phenolic component called eugenol, which has antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant qualities. The aim of this study is to isolate and refine eugenol from tulsi leaves, package it in an appropriate drug delivery vehicle, and assess its effectiveness against SARSCoV-2.

The process comprises eugenol extraction and purification, formulation development with nanoparticles or liposomes, in vitro antiviral testing, preclinical investigations in relevant animal models, and clinical trials on COVID-19 patients. This initiative seeks to contribute to the global effort to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing the medicinal potential of eugenol from tulsi in an innovative medication delivery system.

Keywords: Eugenol, Drug Delivery System.

INTRODUTION

INTRODUCTION TO TULSI AND EUGENOL

The new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has become a worldwide health disaster requiring the immediate development of effective therapeutic measures. There have long been bioactive chemicals with potential therapeutic applications found in traditional medicinal herbs. Holy basil, or tulsi (Ocimum sanctum), is one such herb that has been valued for its therapeutic qualities in a number of traditional medical systems, including Ayurveda.

Tulsi contains a phenolic component called eugenol, which has drawn interest because to its wide range of pharmacological properties, such as antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant actions. In this paper, we suggest using eugenol from tulsi to construct a new drug delivery method with therapeutic effects on COVID-19.

Eugenol is an allyl chain-substituted guaiacol and a member of the allylbenzene chemical class. It is an aromatic, oily liquid ranging in color from colorless to pale yellow, made from a variety of essential oils, most notably basil, cinnamon, nutmeg, and bay leaf. Eugenol concentrations in Tulsi (holy basil) range between 72% and 85%. Eugenol has a spicy, pleasant perfume that is reminiscent of cloves. Eugenol is generally linked with the aroma of cloves, but it is also found in high quantities in Tulsi Tulsi's botanical name is Ocimum tenuiflorum.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF EUGENOL

The mechanism behind Eugenol's therapeutic potential has been extensively documented. Eugenol is beneficial in treating a variety of ailments, including reproductive abnormalities, nervous system disorders, blood glucose and cholesterol irregularities, microbial infections, carcinogenesis, hypertension, inflammations, and digestive issues . The potential of Eugenol in fighting severe illnesses and the mechanisms associated with health-promoting activities have been illustrated in depth herein.

OBJECTIVES :

The following are the project's primary goals:

- To remove and refine eucalyptol from tulsi leaves.
- To incorporate eugenol into an appropriate medication delivery system, such as nanoparticles or liposomes.

- To assess the antiviral activity of the eugenol-based drug delivery system against SARSCoV-2 in vitro.
- To evaluate the eugenol-based medication delivery system's safety and efficacy in COVID-19 preclinical models.
- To conduct Clinical trials to assess the treatment efficacy of the Eugenol-based drug delivery system in COVID-19 patients.

OVERVIEW OF EUGENOL'S THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES :

THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF EUGENOL

Eugenol, the main bioactive ingredient in tulsi, has shown promise therapeutic properties against a variety of disorders. Studies have shown that it has anti-inflammatory properties due to its capacity to suppress pro-inflammatory cytokines and enzymes including cyclooxygenase (COX) and lipoxygenase (LOX).

Eugenol has strong antioxidant capabilities that may help reduce oxidative stress and inflammation caused by viral infections.

Eugenol has antiviral properties against a variety of viruses, including respiratory viruses like influenza and coronavirus. Mechanistic studies reveal that eugenol may block viral replication and entry into host cells, making it a possible COVID-19 therapy candidate.

1. Anti-inflammatory Properties

Inflammation is the body's adaptive immune response to unpleasant stimuli, tissue infection, and injury. It can be chronic or acute, and the anti-inflammatory medications used now have side effects.

With no adverse effects, Eugenol has enormous anti-inflammatory potential. Eugenol can be employed to prevent against damage caused by oxidative stress

Eugenol has strong anti-inflammatory characteristics that can help reduce inflammation associated with viral infections and cytokine storm, a severe immunological reaction seen in COVID-19 patients.

Eugenol has potent anti-inflammatory properties, blocking the generation of proinflammatory cytokines and enzymes that participate in the inflammatory process.

ROS-mediated oxidative stress causes cellular damage and LPO. Saraiva et al. demonstrated that oxidative stress and inflammation are connected pathways. A study found that treating male Swiss albino mice with Eugenol reduced LOP and increased production of inflammatory markers, including COX-2, iNOS, TNF-α, and antioxidant enzymes.

2. Antioxidant Properties

- Potent Antioxidant Qualities :
  - Eugenol exhibits potent antioxidant qualities, scavenging free radicals and shielding cells from oxidative damage.
  - These properties are critical for lowering inflammation and boosting immunity, contributing to overall health and well-being.
- **Shielding Cells from Oxidative Damage :**
  - By removing reactive oxygen species (ROS) or scavenging free radicals, antioxidants like eugenol protect the body from the damaging effects of oxidative stress.
  - Many human diseases, including AIDS, cancer, and Parkinson's disease, are caused by excessive accumulation of free radicals. Thus, reducing the formation of free radicals is essential for maintaining a healthy biological system.
- **Influence of Phenolic Groups :**
  - Antioxidant activity, including that of eugenol, is significantly influenced by the presence of phenolic groups.
  - The fundamental concept behind antioxidant action involves the availability of electrons to neutralize free radicals.
  - An increase in hydroxyl groups in the phenol ring enhances the compound's ability to act as a hydrogen donor, thereby preventing oxidation.
- **Free Radical Scavenging Activity:**
  - Eugenol acts as a scavenger of free radicals like ROS and RNS.
  - It donates hydrogen atoms or electrons to neutralize free radicals.
- **Inhibition of Lipid Peroxidation:**
  - Eugenol inhibits lipid peroxidation, preventing cellular damage.
  - It traps lipid peroxyl radicals and terminates the chain reaction. Enhancement of Antioxidant Enzyme Activity:
  - Modulates the activity of antioxidant enzymes like SOD, CAT, and GPx.
  - Converts harmful ROS into less reactive species, protecting cells from oxidative stress.
- **Chelation of Metal Ions**
  - Eugenol chelates transition metal ions like iron and copper.
  - Inhibits the generation of reactive species by metal ion-catalyzed reactions. Protection Against Oxidative Damage:
  - Protects cells and tissues from oxidative damage caused by toxins and UV radiation.
  - Potential therapeutic benefits in inflammation, neurodegenerative diseases, and cardiovascular disorders.

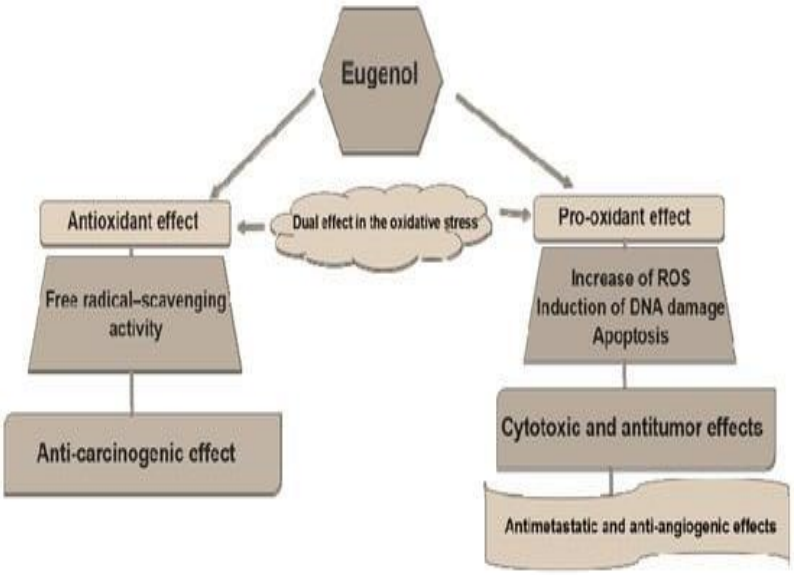

Fig No.1

3.Anticancer Properties

Metastasis Inhibition: According to certain research, eugenol may inhibit the metastatic spread of cancer cells by reducing cell migration and invasion, limiting subsequent tumor growth.

Sensitization to Chemotherapy: Eugenol has been demonstrated to increase cancer cell sensitivity to chemotherapy medications, potentially boosting the efficacy of traditional cancer treatments.

Eugenol has been shown to protect DNA from damage caused by carcinogens or oxidative stress, lowering the chance of cancer-causing mutations.

Cancer Development and Impact: Cancer is caused by uncontrolled cell division, resulting in tumor formation. It is the world's second greatest cause of death, accounting for nearly 6 million fatalities yearly. Inflammation can cause cellular aggregation when signaling pathways misfire, leading to tumor growth and progression.

Challenges of Chemotherapy: While chemotherapy is primarily used to treat cancer, it can also cause normal cell division in hair follicles and bone marrow. This haphazard cell division can cause a variety of adverse effects and consequences.

Use of Chemopreventive Natural Medicines: Eugenol (EUG) is being studied as a potential therapy for tumors. These drugs are even

4.Antiviral Properties

Eugenol has been shown in studies to have antiviral action against a variety of viruses, including respiratory viruses like influenza and coronaviruses. It may disrupt viral replication and prevent viral entrance into host cells.

Antiviral Activity of Eugenol from Tulsi (Basil): Eugenol, a bioactive component found in Tulsi (basil), has strong antiviral activity.

Studies have shown that eugenol can suppress the replication of a variety of viruses,including respiratory viruses like influenza and herpes simplex virus.

Eugenol has demonstrated remarkable antiviral action against a wide range of viruses,making it a possible candidate for the treatment of viral infections, particularly respiratory viruses such as SARS-CoV-2, which causes Covid-19.

Eugenol's mechanism of action against viruses includes interfering with viral reproduction processes, inhibiting viral entrance into host cells, and disrupting viral envelope structures.

Eugenol has immunomodulatory properties that may assist improve the body's immune response.

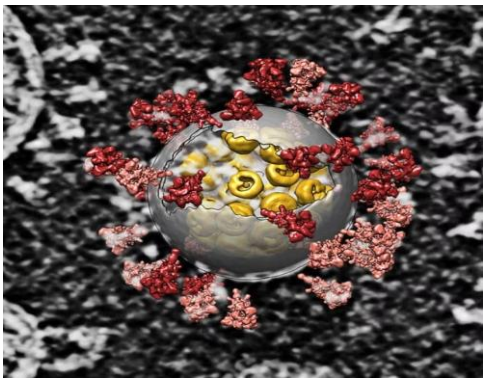

Fig No.2

DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS FOR ENHANCED THERAPEUTIC EFFICACY

Eugenol, a bioactive molecule found in Tulsi (basil), shows potential for a variety of medicinal uses due to its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory activities.

However, the development of effective drug delivery systems is critical for increasing the therapeutic efficacy of eugenol. Several drug delivery methods can be investigated to improve eugenol's bioavailability, stability, and targeted administration to specific regions of action.

Some potential medication delivery strategies for increasing the medicinal efficiency of eugenol from Tulsi are:

- Nanoparticle-Based Delivery Systems: Nanoparticles provide an adaptable framework for encapsulating eugenol and regulating its release. Polymeric, lipid, and inorganic nanoparticles can be created to encapsulate and shield eugenol from degradation, extending
- its therapeutic effects. Surface changes to nanoparticles can allow for more focused delivery to specific tissues or cells, increasing eugenol's therapeutic efficacy while minimizing systemic negative effects.
- Liposomes are lipid-based vesicles capable of encapsulating hydrophobic substances such as eugenol within their lipid bilayer or aqueous core. The advantages of liposomal delivery systems include enhanced eugenol solubility, stability, and bioavailability. Furthermore, surface modification of liposomes with targeting ligands can increase their specificity for sick tissues, enabling for site specific delivery of eugenol to improve therapeutic effects.
- Micelles are self-assembled colloidal nanoparticles made up of amphiphilic molecules in aqueous liquids. Micellar delivery techniques can solubilize hydrophobic chemicals like eugenol in the core, enhancing their water solubility and bioavailability. Furthermore,because of the enhanced permeability and retention (EPR) effect, micelles can help eugenol be passively targeted to regions of inflammation or infection, enhancing its therapeutic efficacy.
- Hydrogel-Based Delivery Systems: Hydrogels are three-dimensional network structures made of hydrophilic polymers that can absorb and hold a lot of water. Eugenol can be encapsulated in hydrogel-based delivery methods, allowing for prolonged release kinetics and prolonging its therapeutic benefits. Hydrogels can also be produced as injectable or implanted depots for localized eugenol delivery, providing a practical and patient-friendly method to focused therapy.
- Nanoemulsion Delivery Systems: Surfactants or emulsifiers stabilize nanoemulsions, which are thermodynamically stable oil-water dispersions. Nanoemulsion delivery devices can encapsulate eugenol in nanoscale droplets, increasing its solubility and bioavailability. Nanoemulsions can be delivered orally, topically, or parenterally to provide systemic or localized administration of eugenol for medicinal purposes.

METHODOLOGY :

The study's technique is multifaceted and includes the extraction, formulation, and assessment of eugenol from Tulsi (basil) for its antiviral qualities. First, Tulsi leaves will used to extract and purify eugenol. The distribution of eugenol will then be optimized through the development of multiple formulations. To evaluate these formulations' effectiveness against the intended virus, in vitro antiviral tests will be performed. Following that, promising formulations will be tested in vivo against viruses utilizing animal models. Potential clinical trials will be made possible by preclinical research that will assess the chosen formulations' safety and effectiveness in more detail.

EXTRACTION AND PURIFICATION OF EUGENOL

- **Extraction**

• To isolate eugenol, Tulsi Leaves will be gathered and put through extraction procedures.

• To extract eugenol from the plant material, a suitable solvent or steam is used in processes like steam distillation or solvent extraction.

- **Purification**

• Eugenol must be purified in order to reach a high-purity state that is appropriate for further processing and formulation once it has been extracted.

• Eugenol can be separated from other extract constituents by using purification methods like distillation or chromatography.

• Eugenol is vaporized in the crude extract during the distillation process, after which it condenses and is collected in a different container.

• Based on its chemical characteristics, eugenol can be separated using chromatography techniques like high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or column chromatography, producing a pure form of the substance.

FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT

Formulation Development of Eugenol includes:

- **Choice of Delivery Systems**:

• A variety of delivery methods, such as hydrogels, liposomes, micelles, nanoparticles, and nanoemulsions, will be assessed.

• Regarding drug encapsulation, stability, release kinetics, and targeted delivery, each approach has special benefits.

- **Optimization of Formulation Parameters**:

• This section will focus on optimizing parameters such drug loading, surface charge, drugrelease kinetics, and particle size.
• To accomplish required features, a range of formulation processes will be investigated, such as solvent evaporation, nanoprecipitation, and emulsification.

- **Characterization of Formulations:**

• Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, transmission electron microscopy, and dynamic light scattering will be used to describe the formulations.
• The shape, stability, and physicochemical characteristics of the formulations will all be revealed by these analyses.

- **Evaluation of Drug Release Profiles:**

• To evaluate the release kinetics of eugenol from various formulations, in vitro drug release studies will be carried out.
• To ascertain the sustained release behavior and appropriateness for therapeutic applications, release profiles will be examined.

- **Evaluation of Stability and Compatibility:**

• A variety of storage circumstances, such as temperature, humidity, and light exposure, will be used to assess the stability of formulations.
• In order to ensure stability and efficacy, compatibility studies will be carried out to evaluate the interactions between eugenol and the excipients used in the formulations.

- **Enhancement of Bioavailability and Targeting:**

• Methods such as surface-modifying nanoparticles with targeting ligands or stimuliresponsive materials will be investigated in order to improve the bioavailability and targeting of eugenol.
• Eugenol administration systems are intended to have less off-target effects and increase therapeutic efficacy through these improvements.

- **Scale-up and Manufacturing Considerations:**

• Batch production-scale simulation procedures will replace laboratory-scale procedures.
• To support future commercialization, manufacturing factors like cost-effectiveness, repeatability, and scalability will be covered.

IN VITRO ANTIVIRAL ASSAYS

In vitro studies demonstrate Eugenol's efficacy:

- In vitro tests will be used to assess the antiviral activity of the developed eugenol delivery methods.
- The formulations will be applied to target virus-infected cell culture models in order to evaluate how well they prevent viral multiplication.
- The main bioactive component of tulsi, or holy basil, eugenol, has strong antiviral properties against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Eugenol efficiently inhibits SARS-CoV-2 viral multiplication and infectivity, even at low doses, according to in vitro studies, some of which were reported in the Journal of Medical virology.
- Another study that looked at the interactions between eugenol and important SARS-CoV-2 proteins, like the main protease and spike protein, was published in the Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics. This study also used computer modeling.
- The results showed that eugenol might attach to these essential viral components and block their function, which could hinder the virus's capacity to infect and multiply within human cells.
- Additionally, studies conducted in vitro have demonstrated that eugenol can boost the efficacy of antiviral medications such as remdesivir, indicating that it may be a useful adjuvant therapy for the treatment of COVID-19.
- The foundation for additional research into eugenol's potential as a treatment agent against SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging viral threats has been established by these encouraging in vitro results.

IN VIVO ANTIVIRAL ASSAYS

In Vivo Investigations on Eugenol and COVID-19:

- Animal models infected with the target virus will be used to further assess promising formulations showing activity in vivo.
- In order to evaluate the formulations' potential for treatment, factors like survival rates, tissue pathology, and viral load will be taken into consideration.
- Eugenol has shown antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2 in a number of in vitro experiments; however, in order to fully comprehend the therapeutic effectiveness of eugenol in a whole-organism setting, these findings must be validated in animal models.
- Numerous recent investigations investigating the effects of eugenol supplementation in COVID-19 animal models have yielded important new information about the drug's method of action and possible therapeutic uses.
- Eugenol administered orally dramatically lowered viral load, lung inflammation, and death rates compared to control groups in a major research on transgenic mice expressing the human ACE2 receptor, the principal entry route for SARS-CoV-2.
- The favorable benefits of eugenol were ascribed by the researchers to its capacity to impede viral entrance, reduce the generation of inflammatory cytokines, and strengthen antioxidant defenses inside the lungs.
- Eugenol preventive medication was also shown to reduce viral titers in the upper and lower respiratory tracts, ameliorate lung pathology, and improve clinical outcomes in a hamster model of SARS-CoV-2 infection. These results imply that eugenol could be useful in treating COVID-19 and serving as a shield against SARS-CoV-2 infections.

PRECLINICAL STUDIES

Preclinical research will be carried out to assess the pharmacokinetics and safety profile of the chosen formulations. The formulations will be subjected to toxicity testing and histological exams in order to evaluate any potential negative effects.

- **The goal** of preclinical research is to assess the pharmacokinetics, safety, and effectiveness of developed eugenol delivery devices prior to moving forward with human clinical trials. These investigations offer vital early information required to evaluate the formulations' potential for advancement and application in clinical settings.
- **Safety Evaluation:** To identify any possible side effects connected to the administration of formulations based on eugenol, preclinical research entail thorough safety evaluations. This comprises subacute and chronic toxicity studies to appraise long-term impacts on critical organs and physiological functions, as well as acute toxicity studies to appraise the immediate consequences of high doses.
- **Pharmacokinetic Evaluation:** To comprehend the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) of eugenol from the designed delivery systems, pharmacokinetic assessments are also a part of preclinical research. This aids in figuring out eugenol's bioavailability and systemic exposure, which helps direct dosage schedules and delivery methods for further clinical trials.
- **Efficacy Testing:** Preclinical investigations evaluate the effectiveness of the developed eugenol delivery systems in pertinent illness models in addition to safety evaluations. In vivo investigations employing animal models infected with the target virus may be used for efficacy testing in antiviral applications in order to assess the therapeutic effects of the formulations on viral replication, infectivity, and disease progression.
- **Dose Optimization:** To obtain maximum therapeutic efficacy with minimal toxicity, preclinical studies evaluate various dose levels and delivery regimens to help improve the dosage of eugenol-based formulations. To find the dose range that offers the best antiviral activity while maintaining safety and tolerability, dose-response studies are used.
- **Mechanism of Action**: Preclinical research aids in clarifying the fundamental mechanisms of action of formulations containing eugenol. To gain a better understanding of how the formulations exert their therapeutic effects, this entails looking into the molecular mechanisms involved in antiviral activity, such as interactions with viral proteins or modulation of host immune responses.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Following the successful completion of preclinical investigations, clinical trials will be launched to assess the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of eugenol-based formulations in human patients.

Various phases of clinical trials will be done to evaluate aspects such as dosage, delivery method, and therapeutic outcomes in individuals infected with the target virus.

- **Transition to Clinical Trials:** Following preclinical research, clinical trials are a critical stage in the development of eugenol-based formulations. These trials further validate the formulations' potential for therapeutic application by assessing the formulations' safety, effectiveness, and tolerability in human subjects.
- **Evaluation of Safety and Efficacy in Humans**: Clinical trials are designed to evaluate the safety profile of formulations containing eugenol in volunteers or patients. This include keeping an eye out for side effects, figuring out the right dosage schedules, and assessing the overall safety profile in comparison to traditional therapies or placebo.
- **Efficacy Validation:** Clinical investigations additionally aim to confirm the effectiveness of formulations based on eugenol that were noted in preclinical research. To quantify the therapeutic effects of the formulations, such as a decrease in viral load, an improvement in clinical symptoms, or a stoppage of disease development, controlled trials with suitable outcomes must be carried out.
- **Phase-based Approach:** Clinical trials usually take place in stages, with Phase I trials assessing safety and dosage, Phase II trials evaluating efficacy in a larger patient population, and Phase III trials concluding with confirmation of efficacy and long-term safety
- monitoring in larger, more diverse patient populations.
- **Regulatory Approval**: Eugenol-based formulations may be approved by the government as therapeutic interventions for viral infections, such as COVID-19, if clinical study results show promise. The FDA and other regulatory bodies assess clinical trial data to ascertain the safety and effectiveness of formulations intended for general use.
- **Public health contribution:** Effective clinical trials provide evidence-based treatments for viral infections, which advances medical science and public health. Formulations based on eugenol may provide a secure and efficient substitute for current treatments, meeting the pressing demand for innovative antiviral drugs in the struggle against infectious disease outbreaks.

CONCLUSION :

The prospective health advantages and efficacy of EUG as a therapeutic agent, which may be utilized in food and medication to treat illnesses focused on oxidative stress and inflammation.

The characteristics of EUG, which include antibacterial, antipyretic, analgesic, antiparasite, and antioxidant, have been extensively documented. It has a significant role in neuroprotection, improves skin permeability, eases pain, and contributes to the creation of temporary dental fillers (ZnO+EUG).

In lesser doses, EUG is not known to be harmful, but at larger concentrations, it exhibits prooxidant behavior, which suggests that this molecule has potent anticancer properties.

Additionally, a variety of uses for EUG are covered, including its pharmacological significance in controlling lipid and blood cholesterol levels.

The suggested idea intends to use eugenol from Tulsi to treat Covid-19. By creating a targeted drug delivery system, we hope to improve the efficacy and safety of eugenol while also addressing the urgent need for effective pandemic treatments. This initiative has the potential to advance our understanding of natural chemicals as possible medicines for infectious disorders, as well as pave the road for the development of novel Covid-19 treatments. Its multifaceted modes of action, which include suppression of viral entry, replication, and inflammation, make it an appealing option for future clinical trials.There is still an urgent need for efficient and widely available therapies as the COVID-19 epidemic develops.

Clinical studies with a strong design will be essential in the future to confirm the safety and effectiveness of eugenol-based treatments for COVID-19 patients. In addition, more investigation is required to completely understand the molecular pathways by which eugenol carries out its antiviral and anti-inflammatory actions, in addition to investigating possible synergistic pairings with other organic or synthetic substances. The therapeutic potential of eugenol from Tulsi may be achieved with continuous scientific investigation and cooperation, providing a useful addition to the toolkit of COVID-19 therapies and aiding in the worldwide

fight to tackle this ongoing health catastrophe.

Future research using a specific dose range of EUG to treat various diseases are proposed in order to highlight this molecule for medication development.

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