

日本発「魔法の弾丸」を： 自然からの贈り物と思いがけない展開

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“Magic bullet” from Japan: Gift from nature and unexpected development

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Abstract

As long as we are in this world, we cannot be free from disease. We have found from nature and synthesized *Kusuri* (medicines), necessary for the treatment and prevention of diseases. In the 21st century, as the world becomes increasingly complex, diseases also grow diverse, including lifestyle diseases and cancers, in addition to infectious diseases. Such a situation is a real place for researchers engaged in drug discovery, and it is also a living worth. *Kusuri* plays a more important role in the 21st century, raising expectations regarding contributions to people's health and happiness. Japan has a history of discovery and development of excellent “medicines,” and its ability and spirit are strong. Thinking from the perspective of “for whom and what kind of medicine” is needed, it is necessary to explore the possibility of “magical bullet” from Japan.

In this article, I will discuss the example of the development of ascofuranone, a drug prescribed for African sleeping sickness. I would like to examine still unknown functions of ascofuranone, including as an anti-echinococcus and anti-cancer treatment.

Key words

infectious diseases, ascofuranone, sleeping sickness, anti-cancer drugs

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