

LA RICERCA FARMACOGNOSTICA: MAZZANTI GABRIELA

A) INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI

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C) COMPONENTI DEL GRUPPO DI RICERCA

Team leader

1	Gabriela Mazzanti	
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Others

2	Annabella Vitalone	
3	Antonella Di Sotto	

D) LINEE DI RICERCA

The research is focused on pharmacological effects and safety of herbal drugs and their active components. At present, main topics are:

1. evaluation of the effects on hepatic functions
2. *in vitro* studies about mutagenic effects
3. collaboration with the Italian Phytovigilance System.

E) TECNOLOGIE

1. Studies on hepatic functions. The effects of the substances under study are assessed in the rat after oral treatment for 1-2 months; paracetamol is used as reference hepatotoxic drug. The hepatic effects are evaluated by determining the levels of hepatic function indices and the parameters of oxidative stress (GSH levels, SOD activity; lipid peroxidation as MDA).

2. Mutagenic effects. Mutagenicity is studied by the Ames test on *Salmonella typhimurium* TA 98 and TA 100 strains, and on *Escherichia coli* WP2uvrA strain, in presence and in absence of the metabolic activation system S9. The test can be modified to assess a possible antimutagenic activity of the test substances.

3. Italian Phytovigilance system. The system has been set up by the Italian Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) to collect spontaneous reports of suspected adverse reactions to natural substances. The reports collected are individually evaluated by a multidisciplinary group of expert, suspected adverse reactions are coded according to the medical Dictionary for regulatory Activities (MeDRA), internationally used to classify adverse drug reactions. In case of serious clinical events written reports are sent to the Italian Medicines Agency for possible regulatory actions. Quality control on suspected products is performed when necessary.