



BIOAVAILABILITY AND PHARMACOKINETICS ,DRUG LIKELINESS PREDICTIONS OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS OF LICORICE USING SWISS ADME SOFTWARE

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

Earlier research on licorice focused on documenting their bioactive compound profiles and traditional use. Before making a drug like substance prediction using information from in-silico experimental models. The current work aimed to examine and analyze the ADMET properties. This study assessed the drug-likeness and ADMET characteristics of bioactive compounds from licorice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:The current study will be the first to use the free online tool SWISS ADME to report the ADME characteristics of licorice. The ADME properties of five bioactive compounds from licorice were screened and the results were evaluated.

RESULT:Five bioactive compounds were identified to have good gastrointestinal absorption and can penetrate the brain . These compounds include Glycyrrhizic acid showing better lipophilicity, hydrogen bond donor and hydrogen bond acceptor.

CONCLUSION: This method is for determining the ADME characteristics of the bioactive compounds in Licorice. Based on the information, it was predicted that licorice would be effective in managing the disease. To validate these findings, it is advisable to conduct further controlled experimental research exploring the bioactive compounds' pharmacological effects.

KEYWORDS: ADMET LAB 3.0, licorice, bioactive compounds, medicinal plant, SWISS ADME, drug likelihood.

INTRODUCTION:

MEDICINAL PLANT : Medicinal Plants are the plants. These contains bioactive compounds. Medicinal plants are also known as medicinal herbs. These have been utilized in traditional and modern medicine since prehistoric times to treat or prevent a broad range of health conditions. The medicinal plant contain active ingredients including alkaloids , polyphenols, glycosides, and terpenes. Which can be have anti microbial,anti inflammatory, analgesic etc. These can be used for therapeutic purposes to develop pharmaceutical drugs. Plants containing compounds beneficial for health used for thousands of years^[1,4].

Licorice is the root. It has been widely used as a medicinal herb since ancient times. Licorice is also spelled as" Liquorice " and also known as Glycyrrhizae Radix et Rhizoma in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia. Licorice is one of the oldest and most widely used herbal medicine in the world. Widely used in many countries to treat a variety of conditions and has made a great contribution to human health. It is also called as Glycyrrhiza, Sweet wood, Liquiritiae Radix in English. Sussholz and Lakritzenwarzel in German. Reglisse and bias doux in French. Shirin baian or Mak in Persian and Liquirizia Regaliz in Italian and Spanish languages. Licorice refers to the root of the Glycyrrhiza plant, most commonly Glycyrrhiza glabra, and is widely recognised for it's use as a sweet flavouring in food, beverages, medicine and traditional remedies, tobacco and marketed as a dietary supplement. Licorice is a flowering plant of the bean Family Fabaceae, from the root of which a sweet, aromatic, flavouring is extracted. The liquorice plant is an herbaceous perennial legume native to West Asia, North Africa, and Southern Europe^[2,6].

BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS:

There are some bioactive compounds from licorice.

1. Glycyrrhizin.
2. Glycy coumarin.
3. Licochalcone A .
4. Glabridin.
5. Licoricone.

1.GLYCYRRHIZIN: Glycyrrhizin is also called as Glycyrrhizinic acid. It is a sweet tasting compound found in licorice root and stolon (Glycyrrhiza glabra). Glycyrrhizinic acid is a teiterpenoid saponin that is the glucoside derivative. Glycyrrhizin is 30 to 50 times sweeter than sucrose. It is a glycoside utilized for various ailments. It is a strong immunomodulator and maintain the liver functioning for detoxification of drugs. Also used in treating conditions like chronic hepatitis, allergic, asthma, and peptic ulcers.hern Europe^[42].

2.GLYCYCOUMARIN: Glycy coumarin is a bioactive compound found in species of the genus Glycyrrhiza (commonly known as licorice), particularly Glycyrrhiza uralensis, which is widely used in traditional medicine. Glycy coumarin as a coumarin derivative. It shows potential hepatoprotective effect, demonstrates antioxidant activity, some studies indicate anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, effects. Glycy coumarin is isolated from the roots and rhizomes of Glycyrrhiza uralensis and other licorice species^[30,31].

3. LICOCHALCONE A: Licochalcone A is a chalconoid, a type of natural polyphenol . It can be isolated from the root of Glycyrrhiza glabra. It shows antimalarial, anti-cancer, antibacterial and antiviral properties in vitro, antiparasitic. It is used in cosmetics for it's soothing and skin protective effects and it's potential in treating various diseases, including cancer and inflammatory conditions. Licorice roots have a long history of use in traditional Chinese medicine and other complementary medicine systems to reduce toxicity and enhance the effects of other herbs^[14,15].

4.GLABRIDIN: Glabridin is a prenylated isoflavan from the roots of Glycyrrhiza glabra Linne and has posee great impact on the areas of drug development and medicine, due to various biological

properties such as anti-inflammation, anti-oxidant, anti-tumor, anti-microorganism, bone protection, cardiovascular protection, neuroprotection, hepato protection, anti-obesity and anti-diabetes, anti-cancer, and anti-microbial. Glabridin is an isoflavane, a type of isoflavanoid^[37,38].

5.LICORICONE: Licoricone appears to be related to "licorice"(Glycyrrhiza), known for multiple bioactive compounds including flavonoids and triterpenoids with health benefits and anti- microbial properties. One key active compound closely related to licorice metabolites is "Liquiritigenin", a flavanoid found in licorice with anti-microbial effects. It is widely studied for anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and other physiological properties^[39].

MATERIALS AND METHODS :

Modelling platform The SwissADME and Admetlab3.0 were used to perform the computational analysis, which included absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) toxicity; the operating system was Windows 10 Home single Language 64-bit with an Intel ® Core TM i5-6200U CPU @2.30 GHz. Biological data Chemscketch and PubChem <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> were used to find 10 bioactive compounds for this investigation .Two-dimensional (2D) images of the selected compound chemical structures of A. paniculata were obtained from PubChem, ChEMBL, and recognized indexed published publications Submission web page Accessing <http://www.swissadme.ch/> in a web browser displays directly the submission page of SwissADME, where molecules to be estimated for ADME, physicalchemistry, drug-likeness, pharmacokinetics, and therapeutic chemistry properties and recommended value can be input.

ADME TOXICITY : The admetlab3.0 online server predicted the properties of ADME Toxicity <https://admetlab3.scbdd.com/server/screening> using the input of the bioactive substances Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry System (SMILES) string. We eliminated potentially harmful substances that were AMES carcinogens, mutagens, and inhibitors of the human ether-a-go-go gene (hERG). The admetlab3.0 was used to create a collection of ADMET-related attributes for each of the 10 bioactive compounds in the usual mode.LICORICE (GLYCYRRHIZA GLABRA): An ancient medicinal herb used in traditional medicine, food & industry. Contains bioactive compounds like glycyrrhizin, flavonoids, saponins with multiple health benefits.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES: Anti-inflammatory – reduces inflammation (arthritis, gastric, skin irritation), Demulcent (soothing) – coats & soothes mucous membranes (throat, stomach, intestine), Expectorant – clears respiratory tract (cough, cold, asthma), Antiviral & Antimicrobial – active against herpes, hepatitis, influenza, bacteria, Hepatoprotective – supports liver health, Adrenal support – regulates cortisol, reduces fatigue & stress, Anti-ulcer – protects stomach lining (gastritis, peptic ulcers), Mild laxative – gentle bowel movement .Nutritional / Active Compounds: Glycyrrhizin – sweet, anti-inflammatory, immune boosting.Flavonoids – antioxidants, protect from oxidative stress, Isoflavones & Coumarins – hormonal & anti-inflammatory .USES: Digestive – indigestion, heartburn, ulcers.Respiratory – sore throat, cough, asthma relief.Anti-inflammatory – glycyrrhizin properties.Immune support – strengthens immunity.Skin conditions – psoriasis, skin lightening.Liver protection – protective effect on liver.Culinary – sweets, candies, teas, drinks, gum, tobacco.Other – cosmetics (skin brightening), Ayurveda, Unani, TCM.Benefits: Digestive health – indigestion, heartburn, gut lining support (DGL safer for long-term).Respiratory health – cough relief, loosens mucus, eases bronchitis/asthma.Anti-inflammatory & Antioxidant – joint pain, skin irritation relief.Immune & Antimicrobial – antiviral (herpes, hepatitis C), antibacterial, antifungal.Hormonal & Adrenal support – reduces stress, fatigue, supports PMS management.Caution – may ↑ blood pressure & ↓ potassium (avoid in BP, kidney, heart disease).Chemical constituents:Triterpenoid Saponins: Glycyrrhizin (main sweet compound, sweeter than sucrose), 18α & 18β-Glycyrrhetic acid (glycone of glycyrrhizin), Licorice Saponins A–E.Roles: anti-inflammatory, antiviral, mineralocorticoid-like effects.Flavonoids & Isoflavonoids: Liquiritin, Iso-liquiritin, Liquiritigenin, Iso-liquiritigenin.Role: antioxidant, skin whitening.Coumarins: Herniarin, Glycycoumarin, Umbelliferone.Polysaccharides: Acidic polysaccharides – immunomodulatory.Other Constituents: Essential oil, starch, sugars, proteins, tannins, minerals (Ca, K, Fe, Mg).Major activity & therapeutic

action:Major activity –Glycyrrhizin (saponin), Coumarins, Flavonoids.Therapeutic action – Anti-inflammatory, Antiviral, Antioxidant.

IN-SILICO MODELLING:

INTRODUCTION OF SWISS ADME :The Swiss ADME is web-based tool that predicting the key properties of molecules like absorption, distribution, metabolism,& excretion they all together called as ADME. Based on the medicinal properties it can produce the structures. Developed by "Daina,Meichieliin,&Zoete" at the 'SWISS INSTITUTE OF BIONORMATICS'. In vivo ADME testing is costly,time-consuming & put's animal lives at Risk. Where as in silico ADME testing is safer,simpler & faster. This study will use in silico methodologies from Swiss ADME & PKCSM as an integrated online platform for accurate & comprehensive predictions of artemisinin and it's derivative.Swiss ADME is a robust, It is a platform offering a wide array of predictive models, and also gives the strong visualization for the early stage drug discovery the batch processing is suitable.Used in the case of virtual screening.

The bioavailability radar are key visuals. In this software we give the inputs like SMILES (or) the drawn structure. It give the physicochemical,pharmacokinetic,Drug likeness ,synthetic accessibility, medicinal chemistry flags as the out put. There are some rules & limitations for this Swiss ADME software.

DRUG LIKENESS : lipinski, Ghose, Veber, Muegge. Synthetic accessibility: score -1 to 10. Medical alerts : structural alerts Integration & Batch capability Allows batch processing of many molecules usefull for virtual screening & library filtering. Swiss Drug design suite is a part of the SwissADME. It integrates with tools like Swiss similarity. The web servers are used in this work are free & several comparison trails show that ADME performed are better than a number of other frequently used methods. The designing (or) engineering of a novel drug molecule primarily requires knowledge of the features of ADME/T of the new drug compound. The bioavailability showed that the colored zone is the suitable Physicochemical space for oral bioavailability where the following properties were taken into consideration as flexibility, lipophilicity, saturation, size, polarity, & also solubility. By using Swiss ADME software we can also produce the 2D & 3D structures of TUG8.

INTRODUCTION OF ADMET LAB 3.0: It is the latest iteration of the ADMETlab platform a comprehensive online tool designed to predict and evaluate key properties related to drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity (ADMET), alongside physicochemical and medicinal chemistry traits. It's freely accessible without registration at its official site.

Expanded Coverage & Data Volume: Predictable endpoints increased from 88 to 119—an addition of 31 new endpoints .Training dataset expanded to 1.5× the size of version 2.0, totaling over 400,000 entries .It includes the new Endpoints Include:Physicochemical: pKa (acid/base), melting point, boiling point.Absorption: human oral bioavailability ($\geq 50\%$), PAMPA permeability. Distribution: transporter inhibitors.Metabolism: CYP enzyme inhibition, human liver microsomal stability. Toxicity: nephrotoxicity, neurotoxicity, ototoxicity, hematotoxicity, genotoxicity, plus several in vitro assays e.g : hERG blockers, cytotoxicity in A549 and HEK293 cells.Enhanced Modeling: DMPNN with Descriptors.ADMETlab 3.0 implements multi-task Directed Message Passing Neural Network (DMPNN) architectures, often combined with molecular descriptors (DMPNN-Des). This fusion allows for deep molecular graph analysis plus descriptor-based insights, improving both accuracy and robustness across tasks .Model performance metrics: Regression tasks: R^2 values mostly between 0.75 and 0.95; even for challenging endpoints like LC50FM, $R^2 \approx 0.68$. New endpoints achieve R^2 between 0.8 and 0.9; $T_{1/2}$ model scores near 0.7 .Classification tasks: AUC values range from 0.72 to 0.99 for established endpoints; newly added ones also score between 0.73 and 0.96 .Comparatively, DMPNN and DMPNN-Des outperform older MGA-based models in most tasks—

DMPNN-Des shows slightly better overall performance, albeit at a minor runtime cost. ADMETlab 3.0 introduces a full-featured API, making the platform far more versatile for developers and researchers. Features include: Molecule Wash: automatic standardization, fragment handling, tautomer and stereochemistry management, charge assignment, isotope correction. Batch prediction: submit multiple molecules and retrieve all 119 predicted endpoints, along with structure (SVG) and task IDs. Uncertainty data is available only via API. Rate limit: recommended up to 5 requests per second to maintain server stability. Users can choose between DMPNN or DMPNN-Des models depending on preference for accuracy or performance. Uncertainty Estimation: A standout addition in this version is the integration of uncertainty quantification for each prediction. Regression models: employ an evidential deep learning approach to estimate both epistemic and aleatoric uncertainty (via “evidential_total”). Classification models: utilize Monte Carlo dropout to generate prediction variances. Outcomes are interpreted using thresholds based on Youden’s index, classifying results into ‘high confidence’ or ‘low confidence’ predictions. This feature enhances decision support, especially in virtual screening where understanding model reliability is critical.

Comparison with Other Tools: ADMETlab 3.0 stands out among peer platforms (e.g., SwissADME, admetSAR 2.0, pkCSM, ADMET-boost, Interpretable-ADMET). Key differentiators: Feature ADMETlab 3.0 Other Tools; Endpoint coverage Very comprehensive Varies; often narrower Batch/API support Full support Limited or none. Uncertainty estimation: Yes / No. Interpretation & decision support: Colour-coded outputs, uncertainty, alert sub structures generally minimal. Speed (1,000 molecules) ~87 seconds Often slower (e.g., SwissADME: ~1560s). These capabilities make ADMETlab 3.0 a highly competitive and practical tool for early-stage drug development. Summary at a Glance. Expanded endpoint set: 119 total, including new pharmacologically significant properties. Massive dataset: 400,000+ entries, 1.5× larger than version 2.0. Advanced modeling: Multi-task DMPNN and DMPNN-Des architectures with strong metrics. API-enabled batch processing: Molecule standardization, SVG outputs, uncertainty access. Uncertainty-aware predictions: Confidence metrics improve result interpretation. Superior performance: Faster and more comprehensive than many counterparts. We use it as a: Via web interface: Manually submit molecules (e.g., SMILES, SDF) for single-molecule or small-batch predictions. Ideal for one-offs or quick checks. Via API: Programmatically submit larger datasets, retrieve structured CSV outputs with predictions, uncertainties, and optionally molecular structures. Choose between DMPNN or DMPNN-Des based on your priority. External Insight (Optional): While ADMETlab 3.0 boasts impressive coverage and accuracy, some studies (e.g., for CYP450 isoforms) note that performance may plateau or not always exceed earlier versions under certain evaluation conditions. That said, the broader improvements in endpoint scope, API access, and uncertainty handling make version 3.0 a substantial leap forward overall. ADMETlab 3.0 is a major upgrade over its predecessors and many peer tools—offering expanded endpoint coverage, deeper models, batch/API capabilities, and crucial uncertainty quantification. It’s especially valuable for medicinal chemists and computational researchers seeking reliable, interpretable, and high-throughput ADMET assessments.

FLOW CHART OF LICORICE:

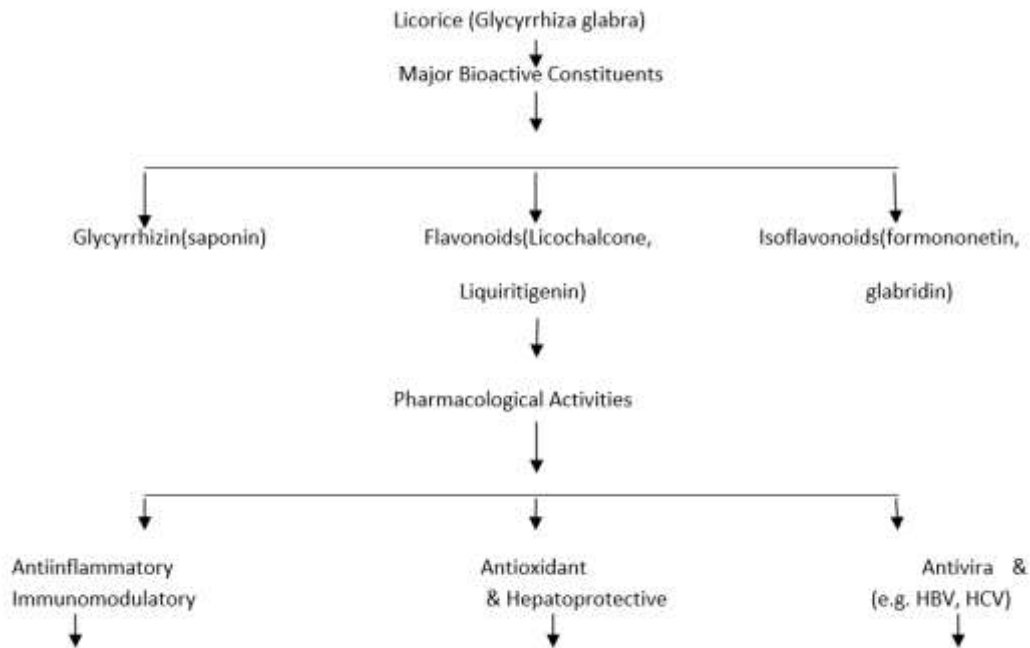
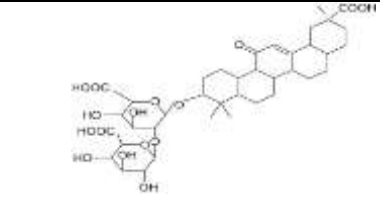
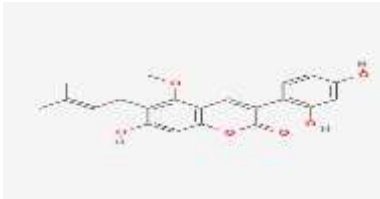
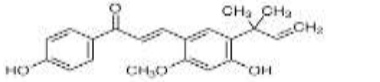
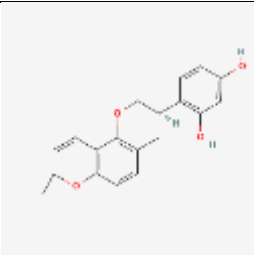
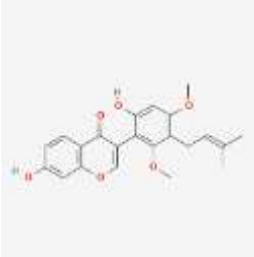


Table 1: General characteristics and PubChem ID of the bioactive compounds of licorice :

| S.no | Bioactive compound | Pubchem ID(CID) | Plant part | Structure |
|------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|--|
| 1 | Glycyrrhizic acid | 14982 | Root |  |
| 2 | Glycy coumarin | 5317756 | Root |  |
| 3 | Licochalcone A | 5318998 | Root |  |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|---------|------|--|
| 4 | Glabridin | 124052 | Root |  |
| 5 | Licoricone | 5319013 | Root |  |

METHODOLOGY:

Bioactive compounds smiles are copied by using Pubchem software. That smiles are pasted in the Swiss ADME software in <http://www.swissadme.ch/>. Physicochemical properties of the bioactive compounds obtained as well as pharmacokinetics, water solubility, druglikeliness and boiled eggs, lipophilicity are also obtained and they are shown in below figure.



Figure:1

Bioactive compounds smiles are copied by using Pubchem software. That smiles are pasted ADMET-lab-3.0 software in <https://admetlab3.scbdd.com/>. Toxicity of the bioactive compounds

was obtained i.e., Ames toxicity, Carcino toxicity, Geno toxicity, and Oto toxicity are shown in the

[illegible]

below figure

Figure:2-physicochemical properties of glycyrrhizic acid

Figure:3-Toxicity of glycyrrhizic acid

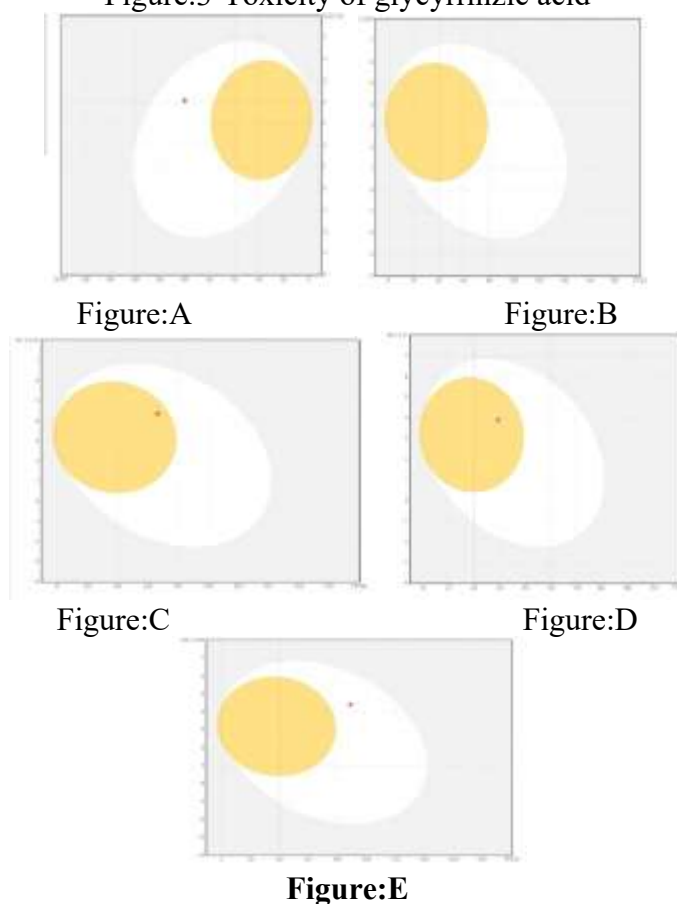


Figure-4:a-glycyrrhigic acid,b-glycycomarin,c-licochalcone-a,d-glabridin,e-licoricone



Figure :C

Figure:D



Licorice Dry Extract

Figure:E

Figure:5-glycyrrhiza glabra(licorice) Tabel:2 Physicochemical properties of the bioactive compounds of Licorice

Table:2 physicochemical properties of the bioactive compounds of licorice:

| Bioactive compounds | Molecular weight | Lipophilicity | No.H-bond donor | No.H-bond acceptor | TPSA | No.of Lipinski rule violation |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Glycyrrhizic acid | 822.93g/mol | 1.49 | 8 | 16 | 267.04A ² | 3 |
| Glycycomarin | 368.38g/mol | 3.53 | 3 | 6 | 100.13A ² | 0 |
| Licochalcone A | 338.40g/mol | 3.93 | 2 | 4 | 66.76A ² | 0 |
| Glabridin | 324.37g/mol | 3.45 | 2 | 4 | 58.92A ² | 0 |
| Licoricone | 382.41g/mol | 3.67 | 2 | 6 | 89.13A ² | 0 |

Table:3 Drug likeness of the bioactive compounds of Licorice:

| Bioactive compounds | Pgp substrate | CYP _{1A} 2 | CYP _{2C} 19 | CYP _{2C} 9 | CYP _{3A} 4 | CYP _{2D} 6 |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Glycyrrhizic acid | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |
| Glycycomarin | No | No | No | Yes | No | No |
| Licochalcone A | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| Glabridin | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Licoricone | No | No | No | Yes | No | No |

Table:4 Pharmacokinetics of the bioactive compounds of Licorice :

| Bioactive compounds | Molecular Formula | Water solubility | GI Absorption | BBB Permeant | Abbot bioavailability score |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Glycyrrhizic acid | C ₄₂ H ₆₂ O ₁₆ | Poorly soluble | Low | No | 0.11 |
| Glycycomarin | C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₆ | Moderately soluble | High | No | 0.55 |
| Licochalcone A | C ₂₁ H ₂₂ O ₄ | Moderately soluble | High | Yes | 0.55 |
| Glabridin | C ₂₀ H ₂₀ O ₄ | Moderately soluble | High | Yes | 0.55 |
| Licoricone | C ₂₂ H ₂₂ O ₆ | Moderately soluble | High | No | 0.55 |

Table:5 Ames mutagen and carcinogen toxicology properties of the bioactive compounds of licorice:

| Bioactive compound | Ames toxicity | Oto toxicity | Carcino toxicity | Genotoxicity |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Glycyrrhizic acid | Non-toxic | No toxic | Non-toxic | Toxic |
| Glycycomarin | Moderate | No toxic | Moderate | Toxic |
| LicochalconeA | Non-toxicity | No toxic | Moderate | Moderate |
| Glabridin | Toxic | No toxic | Moderate | Toxic |
| Licoricone | Moderate | No toxic | Moderate | Toxic |

Result:

The ideal molecular weight range should be more than 500g/mol (<500g/mol). The Glycyrrhizic acid having molecular weight is 822.93g/mol. So, Glycyrrhizic acid has more molecular weight more than ideal molecular weight i.e., said to be better compound. According to Lipinski rule the lipophilicity

of compound should be more than 3 than it shows high lipophilicity. The Glycyrrhizic acid shows low lipophilicity, because it has less than 3. According to Lipinski rule the number of hydrogen bond donor should be more than 5. So, the Glycyrrhizic acid shows high number of hydrogen bond donors it indicates better compound when compared to other four compounds. According to Lipinski rule the number of hydrogen bond acceptor should be more than 10. The Glycyrrhizic acid shows more than 10 number of hydrogen bond acceptor i.e., it is better compound than other compounds. According to Lipinski rule of TPSA (Technological polar surface area) is above 0 to 140 Å² so, glycyrrhizic acid having more TPSA value while compare to bother bioactive compounds. the number of Lipinski rule violation should be less than 3 so, the compounds Glycycoumarin, Licochalcone A, Glabridin, Licoricone having less than 3 no. of violation i.e. they shows better compound while comparing to glycyrrhizic acid. The water solubility of glycyrrhizic acid showing poor water solubility when compared to other compounds. Glycyrrhizic acid shows low GI absorption when compared to other compounds. Licochalcone A and Glabridin are penetrated blood brain barrier when compared to the other compounds.

Discussion and conclusion:

Incorporating in silico profiling provides a rapid method for identifying active compounds, predicting their biological action and refining then for traditional drug development. This study used SWISSADME and ADMETLAB3.0 web serves to assess the ADMET and drug likeness properties of bioactive compounds derived from (*glycyrrhiza glabra*) licorice. five specific compounds, namely Glycyrrhizic acid, Glycycoumarin, Licochalcone A, Glabridin, Licoricone were selected and found to show promising drug like attribute and improved safety profile based on their chemical characteristics, drug likeness score, ADMET models. In addition in silico pharmacophore models were employed to predict potential therapeutic targets, revealing various associated therapeutic possibilities. Based on the available data, licorice shows promise in treating the mentioned disorders nonetheless, controlled experimental research is essential to validate the pharmacological effects of these bioactive compounds. Glycyrrhizic acid shows better lipophilicity and glabridin show high GI absorption and BBB permeant.

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