

New study reveals anti-cancer properties in Kencur ginger

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Jamu – an Indonesian drink prepared from Kencur ginger. Credit: Akiko Kojima, Osaka Metropolitan University

You may know it as an aromatic spice to add flavor to your dishes or as a soothing herbal remedy to use for upset stomachs, but researchers from

Osaka Metropolitan University have uncovered promising findings that Kencur, a tropical plant in the ginger family native to Southeast Asia, possesses anti-cancer effects.

Led by Associate Professor Akiko Kojima of the Graduate School of Human Life and Ecology, the researchers demonstrated that Kencur extract and its main active component, ethyl p-methoxycinnamate (EMC), significantly suppressed [cancer cell growth](#) at the cellular and animal levels. Their findings were published in *Heliyon*.

While previous studies on EMC indicated its anti-cancer potential by decreasing the expression of mitochondrial transcription factor A (TFAM), which is associated with cancer cell proliferation, the exact mechanism remained unclear until now.

"The results of this study confirm the anti-cancer effects of Kencur extract and its main active ingredient, EMC. It is highly expected that TFAM will become a new marker for anti-cancer effects in the future as research advances in related fields," Professor Kojima stated.

More information: Yutaro Sasaki et al, Kaempferia galanga L. extract and its main component, ethyl p-methoxycinnamate, inhibit the proliferation of Ehrlich ascites tumor cells by suppressing TFAM expression, *Heliyon* (2023). [DOI: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e17588](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e17588)

Provided by Osaka Metropolitan University

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