

Molecular docking study of 3-(3-chloro-4-R-phenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea, with R=Cl and CH₃

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Introduction & Objectives: Phenylureas pesticides are substances or mixtures used to control plant and animal life for the purposes of increasing and improving agricultural production, protecting public health from pest-borne disease and discomfort, reducing property damage caused by pests, and improving the aesthetic quality of outdoor or indoor surroundings [1]. Molecular Docking is a computational procedure that attempts to predict the non-covalent binding of a macromolecule obtained from data banks or MD simulations, etc. with a small molecule as a lead for further drug development [2]. The lead candidates can be found using a docking algorithm that tries to identify the optimal binding mode of a small molecule to the active site of a macromolecular target [3]. Docking can also be used to try to predict bound conformation, binding energy and affinity [2]. Thus, the purpose of drug discovery is to derive drugs that more strongly bind to a given protein target than the natural substrate [4–6]. As a reason, understanding the processes of interaction between HSA protein and 3-(3-chloro-4-R-phenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea, with R=Cl (**1**) and CH₃ (**2**) is critical for determining the potential risks of these compounds to humans.

Methodology (Material and methods): The Molecular Docking calculation for 3-(3-chloro-4-R-phenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea, with R=Cl (**1**) and CH₃ (**2**) are performed by Gaussian 09 [7], Autodock Vina [8], the polar hydrogen atoms and Kollman charges were added to the protein by using the AutoDockTools4 [9], the visualization of the results was depicted by Discovery Studio Visualizer software 2016 [10].

Results and Discussion: The two studied structures were docked to HSA using Autodock Vina. The lowest energy (best) poses were selected as the binding mode (**1**) (-7.4 kcal/mol). The results suggested that the studied molecules could interact with HSA at the binding site using hydrogen bonding hydrophobic and van der Waals interactions. The molecule (**1**) interacts by hydrogen bonding with the residues Arg-485 (2.30Å°), Arg-348 (1.96Å°) and Met-446 (3.64Å°) and the molecule (**2**) with the residues Asp-187 (3.48Å°) and Gln-459 (3.46Å°).

Conclusion: The molecular docking results suggest that the first compound is the least stable and the most harmful compound. Thus, the binding energy with HSA follows the trend: (**1**) (-7.4 kcal/mol) < (**4**) (-6.9 kcal/mol).

Keywords: Molecular Docking, Pesticides, AutoDockTools, Binding energy, Potential risks, hydrogen bond.

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