



## Synthesis, Characterization and Cytotoxic activity of New Indole Schiff Bases, Derived From 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-Malonaldehyde with Substituted aniline

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### ABSTRACT

Series of new compounds of indole Schiff base derivatives have been synthesized by reaction of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-malonaldehyde with aniline substituted. The chemical structures of the synthesized compounds were characterized by TLC, FT-IR, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and APT <sup>13</sup>C NMR. The *in vitro* anticancer activity of the new synthesized compounds tested against– AMJ breast cancer cell line. The revealed data showed that compounds have promising anticancer activity against AMJ13 cell line at low concentrations.

**Keywords:** Schiff bases, Aniline substituted, Aldehyde, Cytotoxic Activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Schiff bases are important compounds in the chemistry and biochemistry fields due to their biological activities<sup>1</sup>. Schiff bases which are a class of compounds containing an azomethine group (-C=N-) as functional group have focus attention for a long time due to their medicinal and

pharmaceutical activities<sup>2</sup>. Schiff bases were first reported by Hugo Schiff in 1864, they are formed by the condensation reaction of aldehydes or ketones with primary amines in the presence of acid as a catalyst<sup>3</sup>. They have many applications in different fields for example: antibacterial, antifungal, and antitumor activity<sup>4</sup>.



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gel, which gave one spot. IR data in ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2968 $\nu$  (CH aromatic), 2705 $\nu$  (CH aldehyde), 1672 $\nu$  (CH=O), 1628 $\nu$  (C=C), 1599 $\nu$  (CHN), 1402 $\nu$  ( $\text{CH}_3$ ), 1230 $\nu$  (C-N), 820 $\nu$  (C-Cl) and 754 $\nu$  (C-H bending).  $^1\text{H}$ NMR (400MHz, DMSO,  $\delta$ ppm). 13.99(s, 1H,  $\text{NH}$ ), 9.42 (s, 1H,  $\text{HCO}$ ), 8.69(s, 1H,  $\text{HCN}$ ), 7.63-7.23 (8H, Ar-H), and 1.60 (s, 6H, 2x  $\text{CH}_3$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR (100MHz, DMSO,  $\delta$  ppm): 188.32 ( $\text{C}=\text{O}$ ), 183.62 ( $\text{NH}-\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 156.76 ( $\text{CH}=\text{N}$ ), 149.60, 147.64, 139.51, 129.83, 129.53, 127.44, 125.45, 121.77, 119.98 and 118.17 ( $\text{Ar}-\text{CH}$ ), 108.19 ( $\text{O}=\text{C}-\text{C}=\text{C}$ ), 54.41 ( $\text{CH}_3$   $\text{CCH}_3$ ), 21.64 (s, 6H, 2x  $\text{CH}_3$ ). APT  $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR shown

signals for CH and  $\text{CH}_3$  appeared at negative side (below base line of the spectrum) 188.32, 156.47, 129.56, 127.17, 125.18, 121.50, 119.70, 117.90 and 21.38 whereas quaternary carbons and carbons deuterated DMSO solvent were observed at positive side (above base line of the spectrum) 183.62, 149.33, 147.38, 139.25, 129.27, 107.92 and 54.13.

Synthesis of 3-(4-Bromo-phenylimino)-2-(5-chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-Propionaldehyde(2). As shown in Figure. 4.

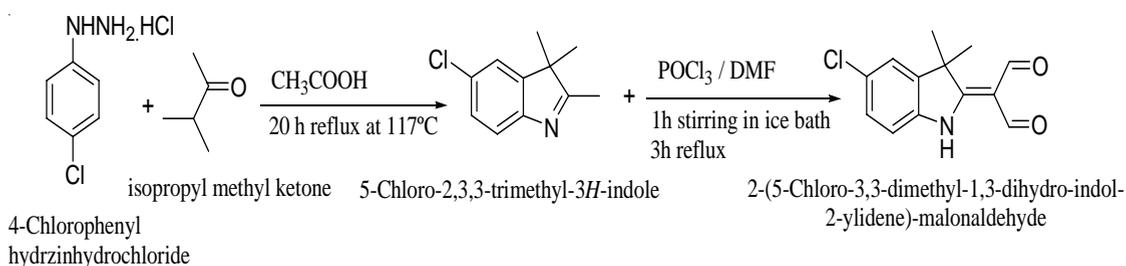


Fig. 2. The synthetic pathway of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-malonaldehyde

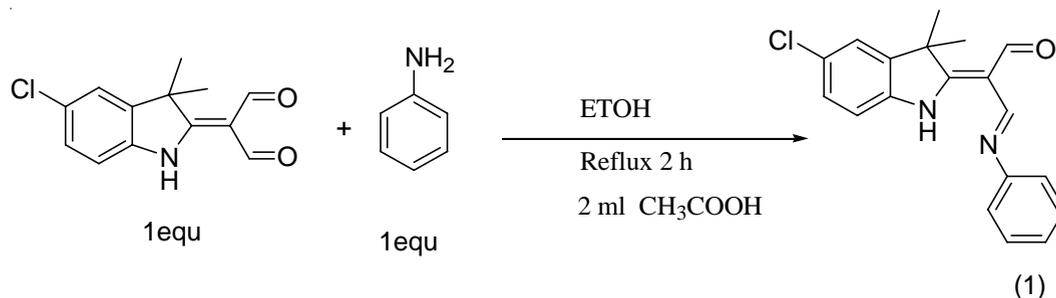


Fig. 3. Synthetic pathway of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-phenylimino-propionaldehyde (1).

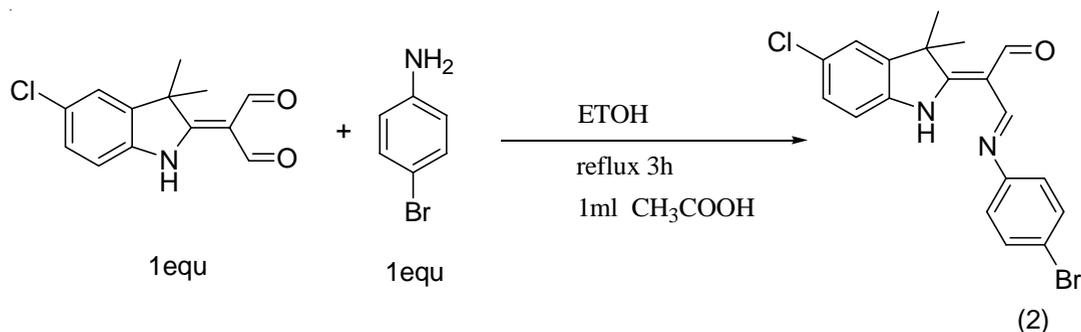
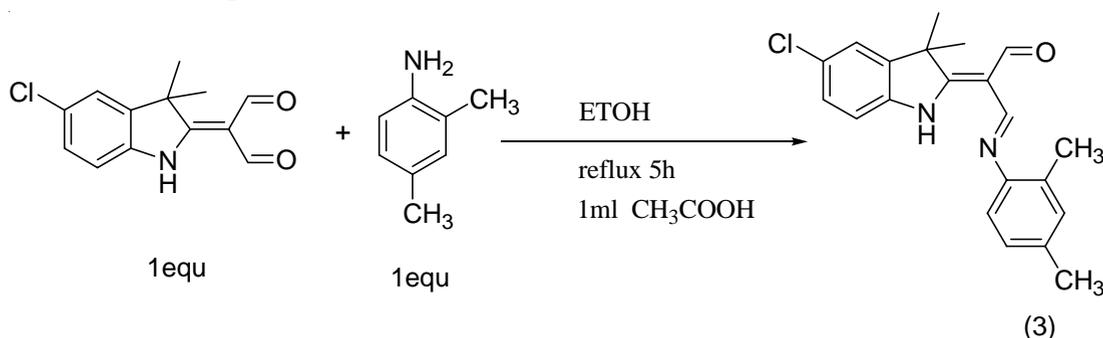


Fig. 4. Synthetic pathway of 3-(4-Bromo-phenylimino)-2-(5-chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-Propionaldehyde (2)

A solution of (0.75 g, 3 mmol) of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-malonaldehyde was dissolved in ethanol 30 mL and (0.51 g, 3 mmol) of 4-Bromo-phenylamine was dissolved in ethanol 10 mL and then added glacial acetic acid 1 mL to the solution. The mixture was refluxed in a water bath at 78 °C for 3 hours. A solvent was reduced to one quarter; yellow precipitate was formed, filtered off, washed with ethanol and dried in oven at 78 °C. The purity of this compound was determined by using TLC with pre-coated silica gel, which gave one spot. IR data in (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2961  $\nu$  (CH aromatic), 2712  $\nu$  (CH aldehyde), 1665  $\nu$  (CH=O), 1621  $\nu$  (C=C), 1581  $\nu$  (CHN), 1394  $\nu$  (CH<sub>3</sub>), 1233  $\nu$  (C-N), 816  $\nu$  (C-Cl) and 769  $\nu$  (C-H bending). <sup>1</sup>HNMR (400 MHz, DMSO,  $\delta$ ppm). 13.95(s, 1H, NH), 9.43 (s, 1H, HCO), 8.65(s, 1H, HCN), 7.66-7.33(7H, Ar-H), and 1.59 (s, 6H, 2x CH<sub>3</sub>). <sup>13</sup>CNMR (100MHz, DMSO,

$\delta$ ppm):187.98 (C=O), 182.96 (NH-C=C), 156.56 (CH=N), 148.92, 147.20, 139.07, 132.17, 129.21, 127.14, 121.48, 120.08, 119.53, 117.03 (Ar-CH), 108.11(O=C-C=C), 53.92(CH<sub>3</sub>-C-CH<sub>3</sub>) and 21.46 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>).APT <sup>13</sup>CNMR shown signals for CH and CH<sub>3</sub> appeared at negative side (below base line of the spectrum) 187.87, 156.61,132.18, 127.14, 121.47, 120.17, 119.46 and 116.96 whereas quaternary carbons and carbons deuterated DMSO solvent were observed at positive side (above base line of the spectrum) 183.03,149.05, 147.26, 132.43, 129.09, 116.96, 108.08 and 53.90.

Synthesis of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-(2,4-dimethyl-phenylimino)-propionaldehyde (3). As shown in Figure 5.



**Fig. 5. Synthetic pathway of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-(2,4-dimethyl phenylimino)-propionaldehyde (3)**

A solution of (0.7 g, 2.8 mmol) of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-malonaldehyde was dissolved in ethanol 25 mL and (0.33 g, 2.8 mmol) of 1,4-dimethyl aniline was dissolved in ethanol 10 mL and then added glacial acetic acid 1 mL to the solution. The mixture was refluxed in a water bath at 78 °C for 5 hours. A solvent was reduced to one quarter; yellow precipitate was formed, filtered off, washed with ethanol and dried in oven at 78 °C. The purity of this compound was determined by using TLC with pre-coated silica gel, which gave one spot. IR data in (cm<sup>-1</sup>):-3049  $\nu$  (NH),2961  $\nu$  (CH aromatic), 2720  $\nu$  (CH aldehyde, 1669  $\nu$  (CH=O), 1625  $\nu$  (C=C), 1603  $\nu$  (CHN), 1398  $\nu$  (CH<sub>3</sub>), 1239  $\nu$  (C-N),809  $\nu$  (C-Cl) and780 $\nu$  (C-H bending), <sup>1</sup>HNMR(400MHz,DMSO, $\delta$ ppm). 14.09 (s,1H,NH),9.40(s,1H,HCO),8.64(s,1H,HCN),7.56-7.11(6H,Ar-H), 2.40 and 2.27 (s, 6H, 2x CH<sub>3</sub>) and 1.59(s,6H, 2x CH<sub>3</sub>);<sup>13</sup>CNMR (100MHz,DMSO,

$\delta$ ppm):187.81 (C=O), 183.60 (NH-C=C), 155.71 (CH=N),149.45, 147.41, 135.21, 134.23, 131.42, 129.25, 127.56, 127.23, 126.86, 121.61, 119.05 and 115.09 (Ar-CH), 108.01 (O=C-C=C), 54.23 (CH<sub>3</sub>-C-CH<sub>3</sub>), 21.26 (2xCH<sub>3</sub>), 20.17 (*o*-CH<sub>3</sub>) and 17.34(*p*-CH<sub>3</sub>). APT <sup>13</sup>CNMR shown signals for CH and CH<sub>3</sub> appeared at negative side (below base line of the spectrum) 187.81, 155.66,127.21, 121.58, 119.03 and 115.13, 21.26, 20.17 and 17.34 whereas quaternary carbons and carbons deuterated DMSO solvent were observed at positive side (above base line of the spectrum) 183.60, 149.43, 147.49, 135.23, 134.23, 131.40, 127.55, 126.87, 108.00 and 54.20.

### Biological part

Two types of cell lines have been used in this Study. Breast cancer cell line (AMJ13) and broblastic and epithelial cells with normal chromosomal pictures (REF) as normal murine cell

lines were used. Both of them are locally established in ICCMGR and they are maintained for use.

#### Determination of solubility of compounds tested for *in vitro* cytotoxicity

Solubility assessment of synthesized compounds was carried out according to standard test method protocol<sup>12</sup>. The three new compounds were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide and diluted with nutrition medium RPMI-1640 to the desired concentrations (10 µg/ml, 20 µg/ml, 40 µg/ml and 60 µg/ml). Only freshly prepared solutions were used in experiments.

Both cell lines (AMJ13 and REF) are cultured in RPMI-1640 media that contains 10% fetal bovine serum, glutamine (2 mmol/L), streptomycin (100 U/ml) and penicillin (100 U/ml), then incubated in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for 24 hours. In this time the cells will grow and become monolayer. The confluent monolayer cells treated with 1 ml of trypsin/versine to provide suspension of cells, then add 10 ml of prepared media. About 200 µl of the cells were culture on clean sterile 96-well microtiter plate then let the cells for 24 hours. to make single monolayer to be ready to be treated with the our three new compounds.

Exposure day, decant the media from the cells and add 200 µl from the dilutions new compounds. Each concentration was triplicate and returns the microtiter plates to the incubator. Leave wells contains only cells without treatment contains serum free media representing control cells. Three different exposure times of the cells were included in this research, 24, 48 and 72 hours. The protocol of handling and treating the cells was prepared as described by Butler, 2004<sup>13</sup>.

#### Cell Viability Assay

The cytotoxicity was determined after each exposure time using crystal violet. Decant the contents of microliter plate, add 200 µl of the crystal violet to each wells of the treated cells for 20 min. in the incubator at 37 °C. The crystal violet will stain the nuclei of the viable cell and the color will be visible to the eye. Then the plates were read by ELISA reader at 495 nm. And then the inhibition rate was calculated using the following equation as recommended by<sup>14</sup>.

$$\% \text{ Growth Inhibition} = (C-T)/C \times 100 \%$$

Where, C represent absorbance of control and T absorbance of sample.

#### Statistical Analysis

In this study, we used *student t-test* to determine the differences between the concentrations in each cell line and to determine the differences between two cells in each exposure time. The probability p was determined to be p ≤ 0.05. Graph Pad Prism V6 was used to determine this statistical test. Excel 2010 sheet was used to draw the curves.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The new synthesized compounds were subjected to TLC; spectral studies like HNMR, <sup>13</sup>CNMR, APT <sup>13</sup>CNMR and FTIR, and their results are discussed below. The physical properties such as the percentage yield and melting point of the compounds (1, 2 and 3) are represented in Table No.1

**Table. 1: Physical properties of the synthesized compounds (1-3)**

Compound No.	Molecular formula	Molecular weight	Percentage Yield	Melting Point °C
1	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>17</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> O	(324.80)	82%	279-281°C
2	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> BrClN <sub>2</sub> O	(403.70)	75%	171-173°C
3	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>21</sub> ClN <sub>2</sub> O	(352.86)	84%	169-170°C

#### IR Study

The IR results of the synthesized compounds were shown absorption bands in the

4,000 - 400 cm<sup>-1</sup> range, especially the new functional group (azomethine group CH=N) at 1599 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1581 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1603 cm<sup>-1</sup> for synthesized

compounds (1, 2 and 3) respectively<sup>15</sup>. which approved to formation the accuracy chemical structure of synthesized compounds. Also strong absorption band at 1672 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1665 cm<sup>-1</sup>, 1669 cm<sup>-1</sup> for compounds(1, 2 and 3) respectively which were belonged to (C=O)of the carbonyl group<sup>16</sup>. As well as stretching frequency at 1628 and 1621 cm<sup>-1</sup> for compounds (1 and 2) respectively, 1625 cm<sup>-1</sup> for compounds (3) were referred to (C=C) group<sup>17</sup>. at the same time the synthesized compounds were appeared an absorption bands at 1230 cm<sup>-1</sup> 1233 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1239 cm<sup>-1</sup> which attributed to (C-N) groups of synthesized compounds (1, 2 and 3) respectively<sup>18</sup>.

Finally, absorption band at 1402 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1394 cm<sup>-1</sup> for compounds (1 and 3) respectively and 1398 cm<sup>-1</sup> for compounds (2) were appointed to (CH<sub>3</sub>) group<sup>19</sup>. All these main absorption bands are approved the chemical structures of the synthesized compounds (1, 2 and 3).

### NMR Study

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR and APT <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were reported in DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) with chemical shifts in ppm and using TMS (tetramethylsilane) as standard.

### <sup>1</sup>H-NMR

The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR results for compound (3) Fig. (6) shown single signals at 14.09 ppm was belonged to proton of (NH) of indole ring<sup>20</sup>. A singlet signal at 9.40 ppm was referred to proton atom of carbonyl group (C=O)<sup>21</sup>. As well as, single signal at 8.64 ppm was attributed to proton of Schiff base group (CH=N)<sup>22</sup> Signals were appeared in the region between (7.56-7.11) ppm were assigned to protons of aromatic ring for (3) compound<sup>23</sup>. Also singlet signals at 2.40 and 2.17 ppm were assigned to two methyl groups at positions para and ortho on aromatic ring. Finally peak at 1.59 ppm was belonged to six protons of two methyl groups<sup>24</sup>. <sup>1</sup>H NMR results of other compounds (1 and 2) are discussed and listed in table (2).

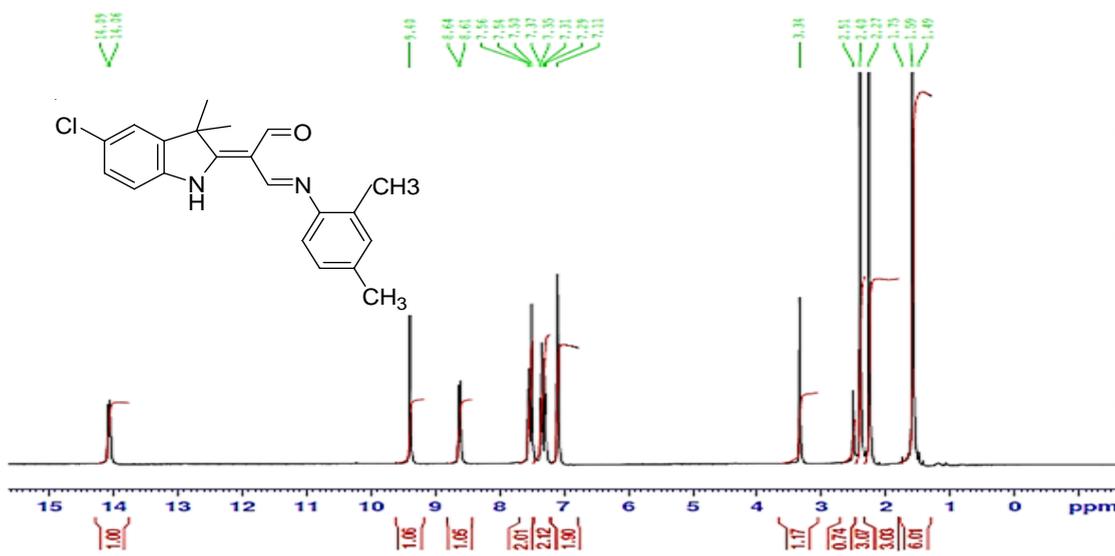


Fig. 6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-(2,4-dimethylphenylimino)-propionaldehyde (3)

Table. 2: The chemical shift in ppm to <sup>1</sup>H NMR results of compounds (1-3)

Compound No.	NH-	C=O	CH=N-	Ar-H	Ortho CH <sub>3</sub>	para CH <sub>3</sub>	2xCH <sub>3</sub>
1	13.99	9.42	8.69	7.63-7.23	-	-	1.60
2	13.95	9.43	8.65	7.66-7.33	-	-	1.59
3	14.09	9.40	8.64	7.56-7.11	2.40	2.17	1.59

**<sup>13</sup>C NMR study**

The <sup>13</sup>C NMR results supported <sup>1</sup>H NMR results for compound (3) as shown on Fig. 7. A signal at 187.81 ppm and at 155.71 ppm which belonged to the carbon atom of the carbonyl group C=O and the carbon atom of the azomethine group (CH=N) respectively<sup>25</sup>. The signals were appear in range between (149.45, 147.41, 135.21, 134.23, 131.42, 129.25, 127.56, 127.23, 126.86, 121.61, 119.05 and 115.09 ppm) assigned to the carbon

atoms of aromatic ring<sup>26</sup>. While the signal at 108.01 ppm was referred to carbon atom of (O=C-C=C) group<sup>27</sup>, as well as a signal of carbon atom of (CH<sub>3</sub>-C-CH<sub>3</sub>) group was observed at 54.23. In addition, signal two groups of methyl were observed at 21.26 ppm. Finally the signals of *p*-CH<sub>3</sub> and *o*-CH<sub>3</sub> were appeared at 20.17 and 17.34 ppm<sup>28</sup>. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR results of the rest compounds (1 and 2) were given in the Table. 3.

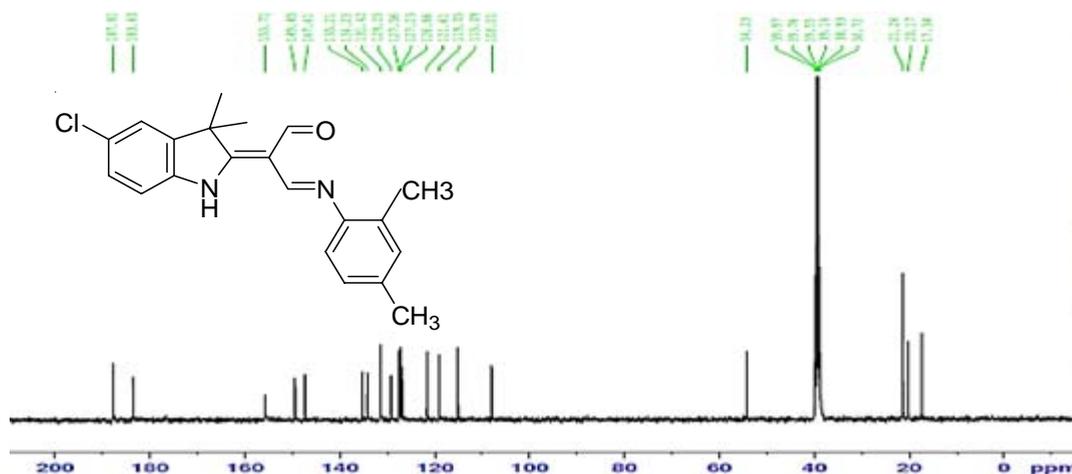


Fig. 7. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-(2,4-dimethylphenylimino)-propionaldehyde (3)

Table. 3: the chemical shift in ppm to <sup>13</sup>C NMR results of compounds (1-3)

Compound No.	C=O	CH=N-	Ar-CH ring	O=C-C=C)	CH <sub>3</sub> CCH <sub>3</sub>	Para CH <sub>3</sub>	Ortho CH <sub>3</sub>	2x CH <sub>3</sub>
1	188	156	149-118	108	54	-	-	21
2	187	156	148-117	108	53	-	-	21
3	187	155	149.-115	108	54	17	20	21

**APT <sup>13</sup>C NMR**

APT <sup>13</sup>C NMR results were further used to characterize the new three compounds. For example APT <sup>13</sup>C NMR results of compound (3) Fig. 8 shown signals for quaternary carbons and solvent which appeared at positive side (above of the spectrum). While CH and CH<sub>3</sub> observed at negative side (below of the spectrum). <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and APT spectrum results for the new three compounds correspond well with the expected signals and are regular with the formation of these compounds.

***In Vitro* cytotoxicity effects of three indole derivatives****Cytotoxic activity against AMJ13 cell line**

The synthesized of three new compounds (1, 2 and 3) were tested in vitro to determine their cytotoxicity toward breast human cancer cell line AMJ 13. Our results indicated that the cytotoxic activity of Compound(1) (Fig. 9) at high concentration 60 µg/ml appears higher cytotoxicity against AMJ13 cells gradually increase in its cytotoxicity according to exposure time at 72 h to inhibit 70% of the cells. While values of anticancer activity were obtained



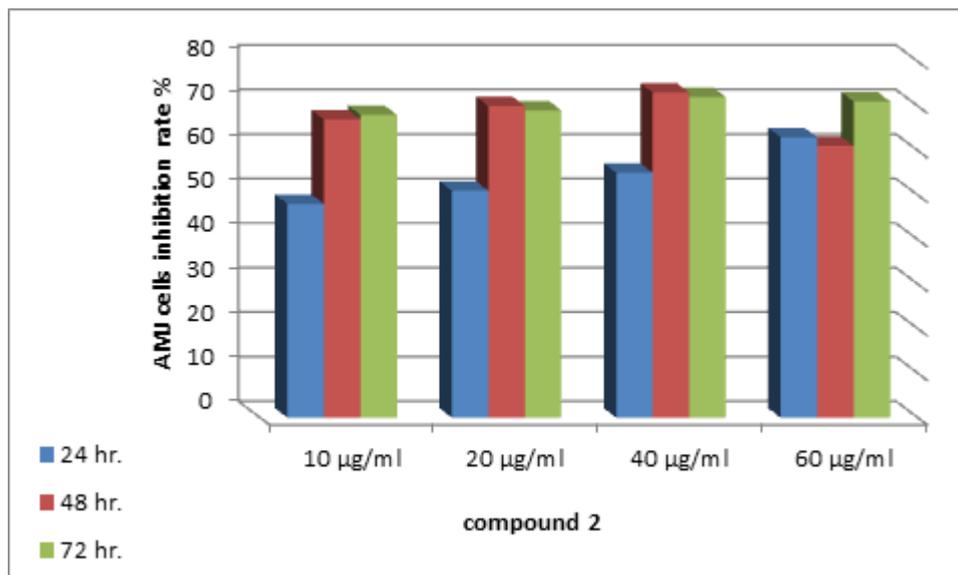


Fig. 10. cytotoxic activity of compound (2) against AMJ13 cancer cell line from prepared different concentrations for three different exposure times.

The cytotoxic activity of compound 3 was also observed to inhibit AMJ13 cells at concentrations 60, 40 and 20 µg/ml for 48 and 72 h of exposures shows 70% range of cells inhibition rate. While at lower concentration 10 µg/ml also gives 60% inhibition rate at 72 h of exposure against AMJ13 cells as presented in Figure. 11.

Totally talking about the ability of all the compounds tested and concentration 10 µg/ml to be nominated against AMJ13 cell line growth at 72 h of exposure, choosing the lowest concentration that has the same ability to inhibit AMJ13 cells to higher ones let us to think again in using it as anticancer drug.

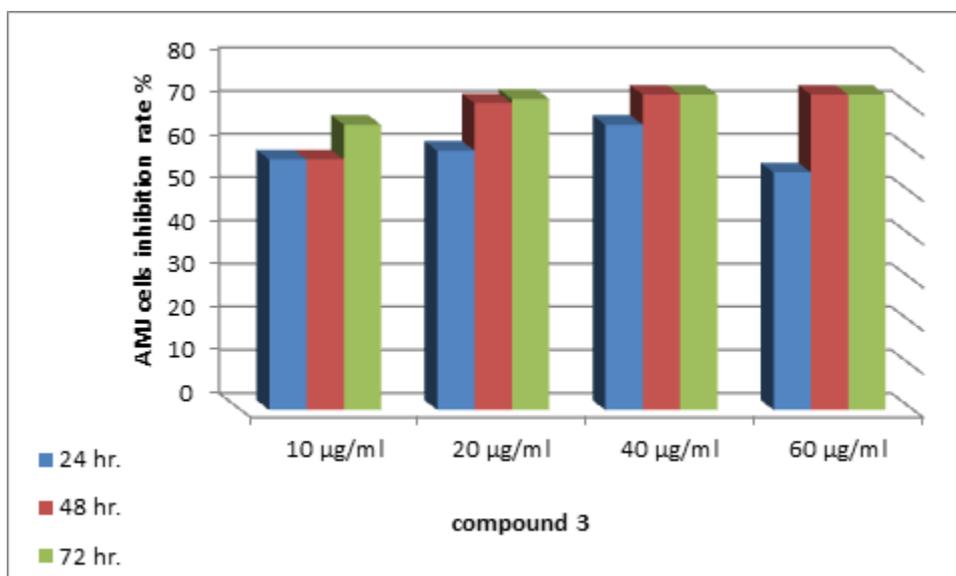


Fig. 11. cytotoxic activity of compound (3) against AMJ13 cancer cell line from prepared different concentrations for three different exposure times.

### Cytotoxic activity against REF cell line

The prepared of three new compounds (1, 2 and 3) also tested their cytotoxic activity *in vitro* against REF cell line. For compound 1, all tested concentrations were appear to inhibit cell growth specially at high concentration 60  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  as time

dependent to give 25 % inhibition rate at 72 h of exposure while at lower concentrations the inhibition rates were lower means it could be safe to cell and let the REF cells grow normally specially at concentration 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  as expressed in Figure 12.

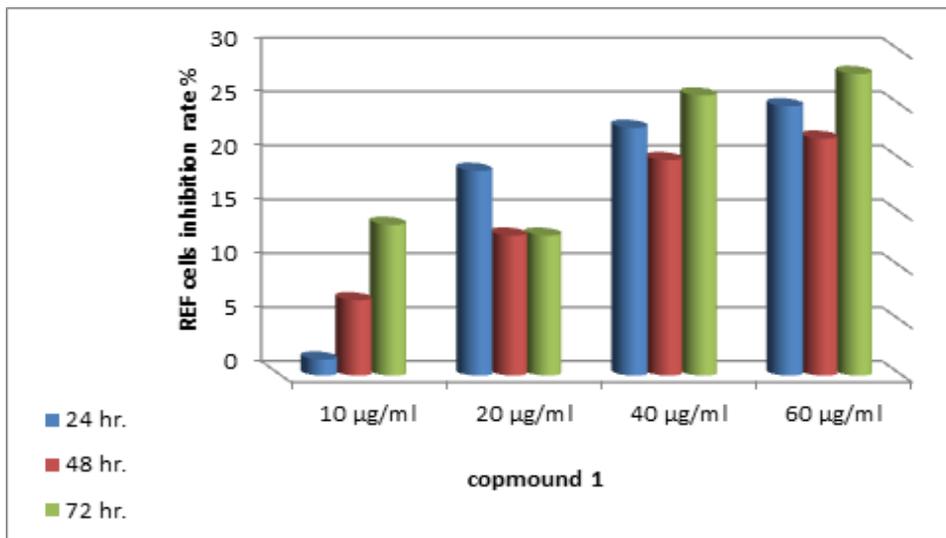


Fig. 12. Cytotoxic activity of compound (1) against REF cell line from prepared different concentrations for three different exposure times

While REF cells when exposed to different concentrations of prepared compound (2) the cells after 24 h of exposure and at higher concentrations than 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  started to be very sensitive and inhibition rate was time dependent also in this case

and concentration dependent. Only in concentrations 10 and 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  and at 24 h of exposure the cells were live normally and did not affected by this derivative to range in its inhibition from 10-20% respectively as in Figure. 13.

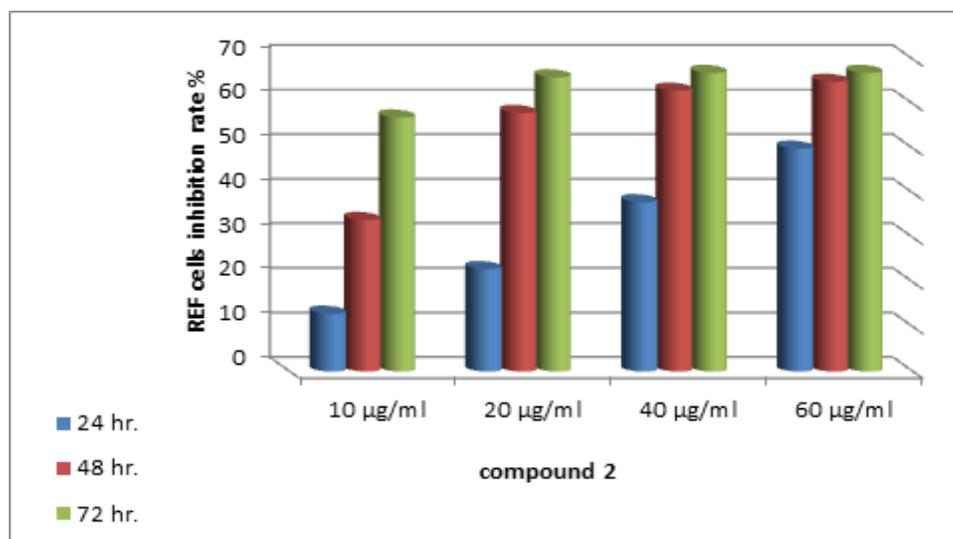


Fig. 13. cytotoxic activity of compound (2) against REF cell line from prepared different concentrations for three different exposure times.

In compound 3, concentration 10 µg/ml represented the safest concentration in the three exposure times to REF cells compared to other higher concentrations to give less than 15%

inhibition rate at 72 h of exposure. Concentrations 20, 40 and 60 µg/ml at 24 h of REF cells exposure also gives lower inhibition rate 33-37% respectively as presented in Figure. 14.

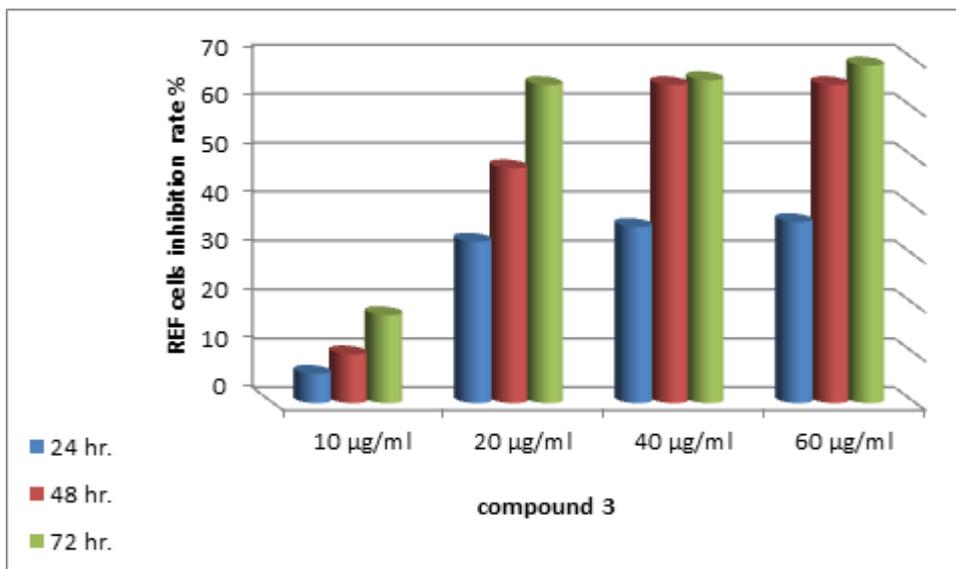


Fig. 14. cytotoxic activity of compound (3) against REF cell line from prepared different concentrations for three different exposure times

Reflecting from these results that compound (1) and its concentrations represent the safest to REF cell line growth did not show high inhibition rate during the exposure times. While only the lower concentration 10 µg/ml from compound (2) and (3) at 24 h of exposure give lower activity against REF cells.

### CONCLUSIONS

Three new Schiff base indole derivatives [2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-phenylimino-propionaldehyde (1), 3-(4-Bromo-phenylimino)-2-(5-chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-propionaldehyde (2), and 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-3-(2,4-dimethyl-phenylimino)-propionaldehyde (3)] have been synthesized by reaction of 2-(5-Chloro-3,3-dimethyl-1,3-dihydro-indol-2-ylidene)-malonaldehyde with aniline

derivatives, The chemical structure of the synthesized compounds have been characterized and approved by TLC, FT-IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR and APT <sup>13</sup>C-NMR techniques. The *in vitro* cytotoxicity of the compound prepared against breast cancer cell line AMJ13 revealed that the lowest concentration 10 µg/ml of 1, 2 and 3 compounds has the ability to inhibit AMJ13 cells and in the same time safe to normal cell growth REF cell line. Let us to put a big highlight for further research on these compounds in cancer therapy models.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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