

Article

Ethanollic Extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. Inhibits Cell Migration of Human Lung Adenocarcinoma Cells (A549) by Downregulation of Integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, and VEGF

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Abstract: Adenocarcinoma lung cancer is a type of non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC), which accounts for 85% of lung cancer incidence globally. The therapies that are being applied, both conventional therapies and antibody-based treatments, are still found to have side effects. Several previous studies have demonstrated the ability of the ethanollic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. (EEOS) as an ethnomedicine with anti-tumor properties. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. ethanollic extract in inhibiting the proliferation, angiogenesis, and migration of A549 cells (NSCLC). The adhesion as well as the migration assay was performed. Furthermore, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was used to measure the expression of $\alpha v \beta 3$ integrins, $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ integrins, and VEGF. The cells were divided into the following treatment groups: control (non-treated/NT), positive control (AP3/inhibitor $\beta 3$ 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), cisplatin (9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. The results showed that EEOS inhibits the adhesion ability and migration of A549 cells, with an optimal concentration of 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. ELISA testing showed that the group of A549 cells given EEOS 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ presented a decrease in the optimal expression of integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, and VEGF.

Keywords: EEOS; A549 cell line; integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$; integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$; VEGF



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1. Introduction

Lung cancer is one of the biggest causes of death around the world. The results of the International Agency for Research on Cancer Global Cancer Observatory related to Cancer Incidence and Mortality Worldwide in 2018 showed that 58.5% of the world's lung cancer cases occurred in Asia. More than 85% of all lung cancers are non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC). Adenocarcinoma is one type of NSCLC and is the most common type of lung cancer, in all patients and among non-smokers, globally [1]. Surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy are conventional therapies that are still applied to reduce or delay deaths from NSCLC [2]. In the last few decades, despite advances in antibody-based NSCLC treatment technology, applied in combination with conventional therapies, such as pembrolizumab, nivolumab, and ipilimumab, the administration of therapy has not been optimal [3,4].

The side effects of therapy have prompted scientists to find innovative sources of new anti-cancer compounds from natural sources, including traditional herbal plants [1,5]. Herbal plants can provide beneficial effects through natural bioactive compounds found in tumor cases, including helping to overcome side effects or intrinsic radioresistance, preventing metastases, and improving quality of life and patient survival rates [6]. Holy

basil (*Ocimum sanctum* Linn.) is a native Indonesian plant that is often found in the yards of houses, and it is widely consumed by the community as a complement to cuisine. Previous research on the ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. showed its ability to induce in vitro apoptosis in A-549 cells (human lung adenocarcinoma) [7,8] and inhibit angiogenesis [9]. In vivo, the ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. was shown to induce apoptosis [7] and inhibit metastasis [10] in Lewis lung carcinoma (LLC) cells.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Preparation of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. Ethanolic Extract (EEOS)

The leaves of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. simplicia were obtained from CV. Merapi Herbal, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and the species was identified at the Department of Biology, Gadjah Mada University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia). The ethanolic extract was obtained by a maceration technique. A total of 4000 mL of 96% ethanol (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) was added to 300 g simplicia *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. The filtration results were concentrated using a vacuum rotary evaporator (Heidolph, Schwabach, Germany), and 8.82% *w/w* of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. ethanol extract was obtained in the form of a paste.

2.2. Cell Maintenance

A-549 cells were grown in DMEM high-glucose medium (Gibco, Oslo, Norway) with 10% FBS (Gibco, Oslo, Norway) supplementation, penicillin–streptomycin 2% (Gibco, Oslo, Norway), and amphotericin B 0.5% (Gibco, Oslo, Norway) in T25/T75 flasks (Greiner, Frickenhausen, Germany) and then stored in an incubator (Sanyo, Tokyo, Japan) at 37 °C, with 5% CO₂. The medium was changed every three days and subcultured when in confluent conditions. Cells were harvested by accutase cell detachment (0.5 mM EDTA.4Na) (Gibco, Oslo, Norway) and grown in new flasks. Confluent cells that were not used for the experiment were stored frozen with a composition of 10% DMSO (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA) and 90% medium in a 1 mL cryo-vial, and then stored in a –80 °C freezer or cryotank.

2.3. Adhesion Assay Using Cell Counting Kit-8 Assay

The CCK test was carried out according to the manual of the CCK-8 Kit (Abbkine, Hubei, China). A quantity of 1.5×10^4 A-549 cells/100 mL was grown on a culture test 96-well plate (Greiner, Frickenhausen, Germany). Cells were incubated for 24 h, then divided into five groups, including the non-treated group (NT); AP3 80 µg/mL; ethanol extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. (EEOS) at 50, 70, 100, or 200 g/mL; and cisplatin 9 g/mL. Each treatment was replicated three times. The treatments were incubated for 24 h, then 100 mL of water-soluble tetrazolium (WST-8) reagent was added to each sample and incubated for 4 h (in the dark). Then, the reaction was stopped by adding 100 mL/well of DMSO (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA). The results were read using an ELISA Reader (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA) at a wavelength (λ) of 460 nm. The absorbance results obtained were then calculated using the following formula to obtain the percentage of viability.

$$\text{cell viability(\%)} = \frac{\text{treatment absorbance} - \text{media absorbance}}{\text{absorbance cell control} - \text{media absorbance}} \times 100\%$$

The final data were analyzed via one-way ANOVA using GraphPad Prism 7 software (La Jolla, CA, USA).

2.4. A549 Cell Lysate Preparation

A-549 cell lysate preparation was carried out according to the kit manual (Biomol, Hamburg, Germany). A total of 5×10^5 A-549 cells/mL were grown in each well on a tissue culture test 6-well plate and then incubated for 1 hour. The treatments in each well consisted of non-treatment (NT); AP3 80 µg/mL; ethanol extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. (EEOS) at 50, 70, 100, or 200 g/mL; or cisplatin 9 g/mL, all followed by incubation for

24 h. The medium was aspirated and the plate was washed using Dulbecco's PBS (Gibco, Oslo, Norway), then 900 L of RIPA lysis buffer was added (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA), and the plate was shaken for 15 min. A cell scraper was used to remove the cells from the bottom of the plate. The lysate was transferred to 1.5 mL microtubes (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany). The lysate was centrifuged at $10,000\times g$ for 10 min at $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The supernatant was transferred to 1.5 mL microtubes.

2.5. Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

2.5.1. Integrin Human ITG $\alpha v\beta 3$ dan VEGF

This test was carried out using sandwich ELISA for both human integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$ and VEGF (Fine Test, Wuhan, China). The procedure was performed according to the manual in the kit (Fine Test, Wuhan, China). The plate was washed twice before adding the sample in the form of lysate, along with the negative control, to a 96-well plate. A total of 100 mL of sample and standard was added to each well and incubated for 90 min at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The plate then washed for 2 times. A volume of 100 μL of biotin-labeled antibody was added to each well and incubated for 60 min at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The plate then washed 3 times. Working solution of 100 mL HRP–streptavidin conjugate (SABC) was added to each well and incubated for 30 min at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, and the plate was then washed for 5 times. TMB substrate (90 mL) was added and incubated for 15–30 min at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. A 50 mL stop solution was added, and the well plates were immediately read at a wavelength of 450 nm (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA).

2.5.2. Integrin Human ITG $\alpha 5\beta 1$

The test was performed using competitive ELISA human integrin $\alpha 5\beta 1$ (MyBiosource, San Diego, CA, USA). The procedure was carried out according to the manual in the kit (MyBiosource, San Diego, CA, USA). A total of 100 mL of standard and lysate sample was added to each, then 10 mL of balanced solution was added and homogenized; no bubbles were formed. A total of 50 mL of the conjugate was added in the well, then homogenized, and incubated at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 60 min. After 60 min, we drained the liquid on the plate and washed it with wash buffer 5 times, for 1 minute each time. Volumes of 50 mL of substrates A and B were added to the wells. The plates were then closed tightly and incubated at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 15 min. Stop solution (50 mL) was added, and the well plate was immediately read at a wavelength of 450 nm (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA).

2.5.3. Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) Data Analysis

ELISA data analysis of human ITG $\alpha v\beta 3$, human ITG $\alpha 5\beta 1$, and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) was carried out quantitatively using an ELISA reader to determine the optical density value of each test, then the concentration values were calculated based on the standard value. Data were analyzed via one-way ANOVA using the GraphPad Prism 7 software (La Jolla, CA, USA).

2.6. Scratch Wound Healing Assay

The scratch wound healing assay procedure was carried out based on [11]. A-549 cells at 2.5×10^4 cells/500 mL were grown on a culture test 12-well plate (Greiner, Frickenhausen, Germany). Cells were incubated for 24 h. Cells were rinsed with DMEM high-glucose three times. A sterile 200 mL pipette tip (Vertex, Boston, MA, USA) was used to make a scratch on the cell surface, then they were treated in groups, namely non-treated (NT); AP3 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$; ethanol extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. (EEOS) at graded concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 g/mL ; and cisplatin 9 g/mL . The treatments were incubated for 24 h in a CO_2 incubator at $37\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, then observed after 24 h via inverted microscopy. Data analysis of the scratch wound healing assay to determine cell migration was carried out by measuring the surface area of the treated cells. Areas were calculated using the free software ImageJ (<https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>, accessed on 4 April 2022) (National institute of Health-NIH,

Bethesda, MD, USA). We then calculated the percentage of the area covered according to the following formula:

$$\text{closing area} = \frac{(\text{area of 0th hour} - \text{24th hour area})}{\text{area of 0th hour}} \times 100\%$$

The final data were analyzed via one-way ANOVA using GraphPad Prism 7 software (La Jolla, CA, USA).

3. Results

3.1. EEOS Inhibited the Adhesion of A549 (Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma)

To analyze the ability of EEOS to inhibit cell attachment, A459 cells were cultured on a well plate and treated for 24 h with different concentrations of EEOS (50, 70, 100, and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). Cisplatin was used as a positive control and to provide a comparison with commercial drugs. Our results show that EEOS inhibited the cell attachment of A549 cells in a dose-dependent manner. EEOS showed significant inhibition at the optimum concentration of 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, but the inhibition was not significant with 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of EEOS (Figure 1).

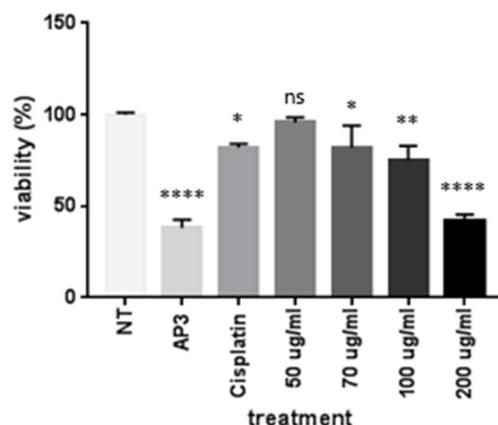


Figure 1. The ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. (EEOS) inhibited the adhesion of A549 cells (non-small cell lung carcinoma). The cells were cultivated in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control, cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison, and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. After 24 h, EEOS's inhibitory effect was visualized using MTT reagent at a wavelength of 450 nm (NT: non-treated; * significant $p = 0.0332$; ** significant $p = 0.026$; **** significant $p < 0.0001$; ns = not significant).

3.2. EEOS Inhibited the Cell Migration of A549 (Non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma) after 24 h of Treatment

The scratch wound healing assay is one of the most commonly used assays for assessing therapeutic impacts on cell migration. In this study, we found that EEOS significantly suppressed the cell migration of NSCLC (A549 cell line). We examined cell migration in response to the mechanical scratch wound. The cells were cultured in a well plate, and after confluence, the cells were treated with EEOS. After 24 h, the cell culture was observed under inverted microscopy. Images of scratch areas after 24 h (Figure 2) indicate that the untreated wounds were half closed within 24 h. To quantify the effects of putative migration inhibitors, the percentage of the open wound area after 24 h was determined (Figure 2). Our data clearly show that treatment with EEOS caused a significant inhibition of cell migration in a concentration-dependent manner.

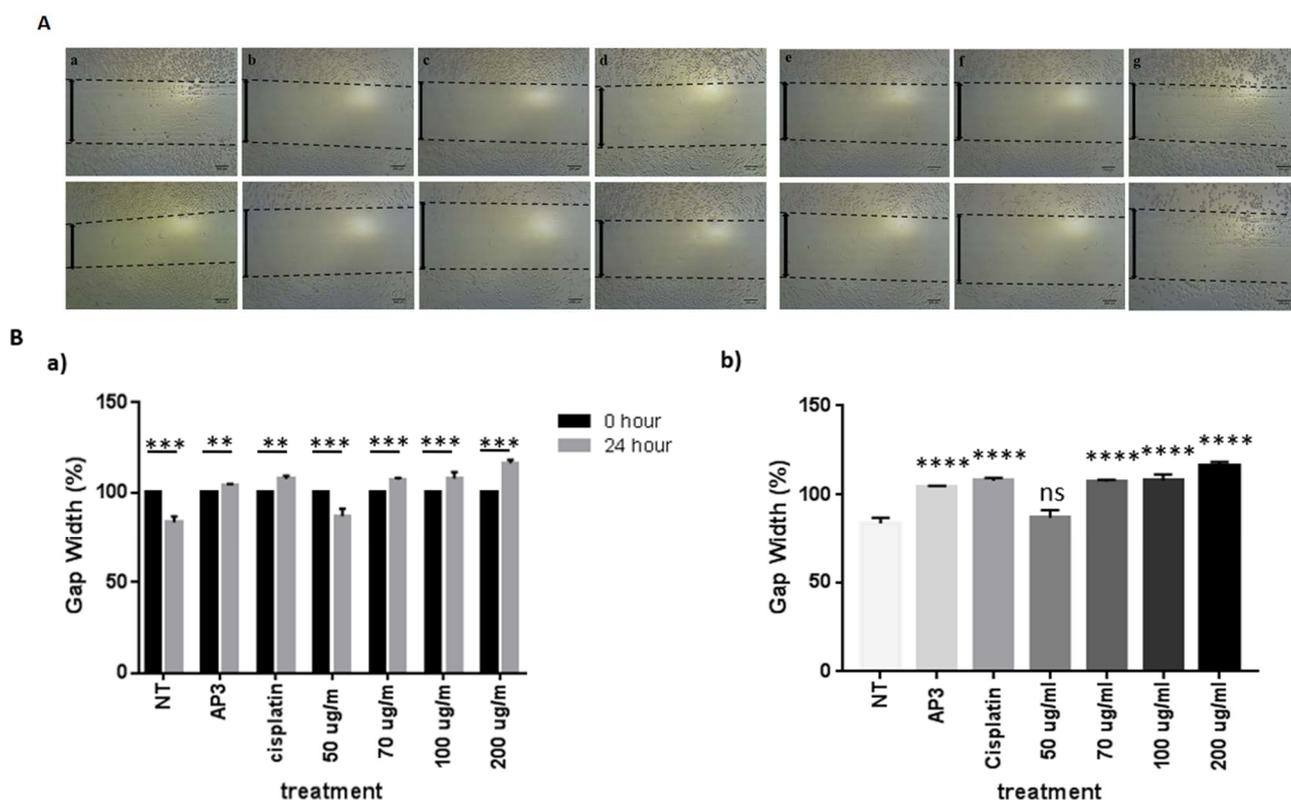


Figure 2. (A) Photomicroscopic images of A549 cells during the scratch wound healing assay. The cells were cultivated under normal conditions as non-treated cells (a), in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control (b), with cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison (c), and with EEOS at concentrations of 50 (d), 70 (e), 100 (f), and 200 g/mL (e). The wound healing was observed at the 0th hour and after 24 h. (B) Ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. reduced the migration ability of non-small cell lung carcinoma (A549), as shown by the scratch wound assay. The cells were cultivated in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control, cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison, and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 g/mL. (a). The wound healing was observed at 0 h and after 24 h. (b). The wound healing after 24 h. Statistical analysis was performed via one-way ANOVA, followed by post hoc Tukey test (NT: non-treated; ** significant $p < 0.0060$; *** significant $p < 0.0009$; **** significant $p < 0.0001$; ns = not significant).

3.3. EEOS Inhibited Cell Migration of the A549 Cell Line (Non-Small Cell Line Carcinoma) by Suppressing the Concentrations of Integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, Integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, and Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF)

To strengthen the evidence regarding the effect of EEOS on cell migration, we performed ELISA on A549 cell lysates. The representative parameters observed were integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, and VEGF. The untreated A549 cells produced the highest concentration of integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, and VEGF. Additional treatment of A549 with EEOS diminished the integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$, and VEGF concentrations in a dose-dependent manner. The integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$ (Figure 3A), integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ (Figure 3B), and VEGF (Figure 3C) concentrations were significantly suppressed under the optimum concentration of EEOS (200 µg/mL) and under cisplatin.

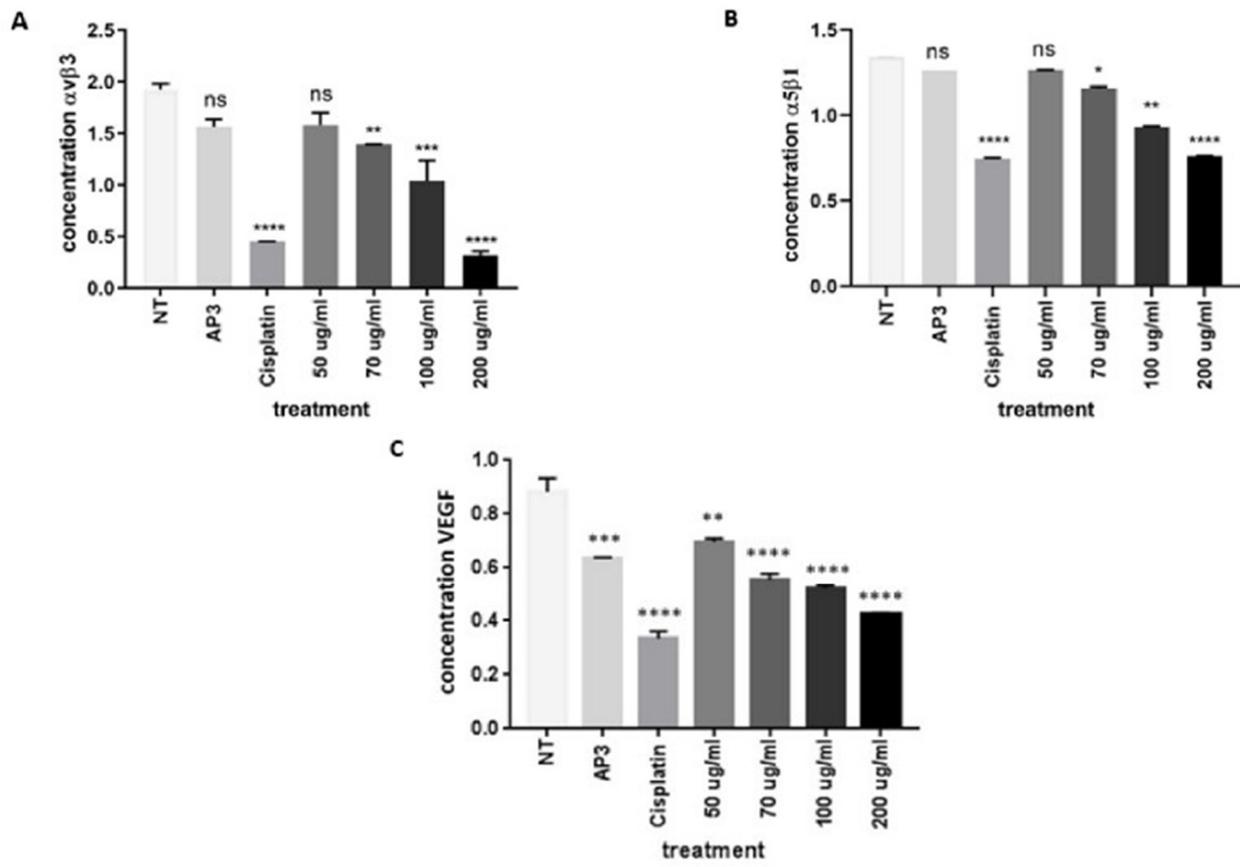


Figure 3. (A) The ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. decreased expression of non-small cell lung cancer (A549) integrin $\alpha v \beta 3$, as shown by sandwich ELISA. The cells were cultivated in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control, cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison, and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 g/mL for 24 h. A549 cells were then lysed and analyzed via ELISA for the concentration of $\alpha v \beta 3$ integrin (ug/mL). Statistical analysis was performed via one-way ANOVA, followed by post hoc Tukey test (NT: non-treated; **, ***, and **** indicate statistically significant values for the non-treated group as a negative control compared with treatment, with *p*-values of 0.0085, 0.0004, and <0.0001, respectively; ns = not significant). (B) Ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. decreased expression of integrin $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ in non-small cell lung cancer (A549), as shown by competitive ELISA. The cells were cultivated in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control, cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison, and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 g/mL for 24 h. A549 cells were then lysed and analyzed via ELISA for the concentration of $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ integrin (ug/mL). Statistical analysis was performed via one-way ANOVA, followed by post hoc Tukey test (NT: non-treated; *, **, and **** indicate statistically significant values for the non-treated group as a negative control compared with treatment, with *p*-values of 0.0348, 0.0027, and <0.0001, respectively; ns = not significant). (C) Ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. decreased expression of the non-small cell lung cancer (A549) integrin VEGF, as shown by sandwich ELISA. The cells were cultivated in the presence of an inhibitor (AP3) as the positive control, cisplatin as the commercial drug comparison, and EEOS at concentrations of 50, 70, 100, and 200 g/mL for 24 h. A549 cells were then lysed and analyzed via ELISA for the concentration of VEGF ((ug/mL). Statistical analysis was performed via one-way ANOVA, followed by post hoc Tukey test (NT: non-treated; **, ***, and **** indicate statistical significance of the non-treated group as a negative control compared with treatment, with *p*-values of 0.0012, 0.0002, and <0.0001, respectively; ns = not significant).

4. Discussion

Cancer has properties such as evading cell death, sustaining proliferation, inducing vasculature, and activating invasion and metastasis [12]. In the process of malignancy, tumor cells will migrate to other organs through blood vessels and lymph vessels and grow in the appropriate organs; this process is called metastasis. Cell–cell and cell–extracellular matrix (ECM) adhesions play a fundamental role in governing the structural integrity of healthy tissue and in regulating cellular morphology, migration, proliferation, survival, and differentiation events [13]. In the classic view of malignant transformation in the epithelium, cells lose their dependence on integrin-mediated interactions with the extracellular matrix and the resulting signaling [14]. In the process of metastasis, tumor cells will migrate to find the best place to maintain their function. Cell migration, invasion, and adhesion are pivotal steps in this process [15,16].

In this study, we observed the ability of EEOS to prevent the adhesion of the A549 cell line. The CCK-8 test chart showed a decrease in the adhesion ability of A549 cells treated with EEOS (Figure 1). The results of this study add to the information from previous studies that EEOS can reduce the adhesion ability of A549 cells, as shown via adhesion assay [8]. We also performed scratch wound healing assay to investigate the migration ability of the A549 cell line. Our data show that EEOS also has the ability to inhibit A549 cell migration (Figure 2A,B). The ability of tumor cells to adhere and migrate is closely related to the process of tumor progression and metastasis, which is responsible for 90% of cancer-related deaths [17]. The phytochemical compounds in EEOS were previously dialyzed using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and UV–vis spectrophotometry. The results of the analysis showed that EEOS contains several active compounds, such as flavonoids, phenols, saponins, alkaloids, tannins, terpenoids, and steroids [18]. Flavonoids and phenols have important roles as anti-cancer and cytotoxic agents, inducing apoptosis in cancer cells [19]. *In silico* molecular docking was also performed to predict the chemical binding between active compounds and protein. *In silico* molecular docking analysis of the flavonoid compounds (quercetin) and flavonoids (eugenol) showed that these active compounds can bind to the active site of integrins and VEGF, thereby inhibiting the activity of integrins and VEGF for adhesion, cell spread, and blood vessel formation [20]. The inhibition of active compounds with integrin complexes will have an impact on the inhibition of the extracellular matrix (ECM) adhesion process and result in a decrease in tumor cell invasion. *In vitro* results on the cell line A549 also showed consistent results that the content of active compounds in EEOS can reduce the viability of the A549 cell line.

To elucidate this mechanism, we also examined the expression of integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5\beta 1$, and VEGF as biochemical cues for blood vessel formation, adhesion, and migration of cancer cells. We found that EEOS reduced the concentrations of integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5\beta 1$, and VEGF in the A549 cell line (Figure 3A–C). Integrins are transmembrane adhesion receptors for the extracellular matrix (ECM) and have essential roles, including sensing and adhering to the extracellular environment to maintain global tissue architecture and multicellularity [21]. Integrins are the major class of receptors in adhesive events, acting by bi-directionally (inside-out and outside-in) transducing biochemical signals and mechanical force across the plasma membrane [22]. Integrins play a key role in single-cell migration and act via conformational changes in the extracellular matrix (outside-in) or intracellular protein that are triggered by altering the affinity of integrins (inside-out). These changes recruit cytoskeletal linker proteins to remodel nascent or focal adhesions and generate tension; these adherent structures generate forces of cellular movement. There are several pathways by which integrin can mediate cell spreading and migration and one of them involves focal adhesion kinase and the capacity of tyrosine-protein kinase Src to up-regulate integrin expression [23].

The integrins $\alpha v\beta 3$ and $\alpha 5\beta 1$ have roles as adhesion molecules in cell-to-cell interactions and motility-supporting roles that promote cell migration during nervous system development, and they also promote metastatic spread [24]. Integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$ is mostly expressed on angiogenic endothelial cells in remodeling and pathological tissues. Expression of the $\alpha v\beta 3$ integrin by endothelial cells promotes cell adhesion to the ECM, cell migration, and angiogenesis, along with angiogenic growth factors, including VEGF/VEGFR [25]. The $\alpha 5\beta 1$ integrin is also overexpressed in, and closely related with, metastatic events. In normal endothelial cells, $\alpha 5\beta 1$ will be expressed at very low levels, but this expression will be significantly increased in endothelial cells during cancer cell angiogenesis [26]. Integrin expression and activation directly influence human malignancies. Due to their broad impact in malignant transformations, they are considered potential targets for cancer therapy [27]. Integrins are considered as pharmacological targets for drugs by inhibiting several key processes in cancer development, such as cell proliferation, survival, and migration. Targeting integrins to enhance the delivery of anti-tumor agents or to delineate cancerous lesions is a new and promising approach. Integrin-inhibiting anticancer drugs have been conceived for their ability to impair ligand binding [28].

In addition to integrin expression, VEGF expression has been confirmed to be a critical pathological factor in the occurrence of NSCLC by increasing vascular permeability and increasing angiogenesis [29]. This study confirmed that EEOS has the ability to inhibit A549 cell angiogenesis by inhibiting tube formation, as shown through the angiogenesis assay [9] and reducing VEGF concentrations. During angiogenesis, VEGF has an associated mechanism with integrins, as integrins are overexpressed on the endothelial cell surface to facilitate the growth and survival of new vessels [25]. The supply of oxygen and nutrients to cells through blood vessels is the most important aspect in the survival of cells, including cancer cells. Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is a homodimeric glycoprotein from the endothelial growth factor family and is an important factor in the formation and regulation of angiogenesis processes [30]; in addition, VEGF has biological roles in the regulation of vascular permeability, metabolism, immune system, inflammation, and neurological function [31]. Tumors can generate their own vascular system. VEGF acts as an angiogenic factor by promoting their proliferation, migration, adhesion, and survival. VEGF may, thus, play a role in vascular invasion [32]. Furthermore, VEGF also play role in targeting other cells in the tumor microenvironment, as well as initiating the function of growth factors and integrin, mainly $\alpha v\beta 3$ and $\alpha 5\beta 1$ [33–35]. In recent years, the inhibition expression of VEGF has been utilized in tumor-targeted therapy [34].

Taken together, our findings underline the ability of the ethanolic extract of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. to prevent the migration and metastasis of human lung adenocarcinoma cells (A549); however, more research and discussion are required, since our research was limited only to the role of integrin $\alpha v\beta 3$, integrin $\alpha 5\beta 1$, and VEGF. Moreover, the data derived from the in vitro analysis demonstrate the direct impact on the cells (Figure 4). Furthermore, in vivo experiments are needed as basic data to complete the preclinical phase of this analysis.

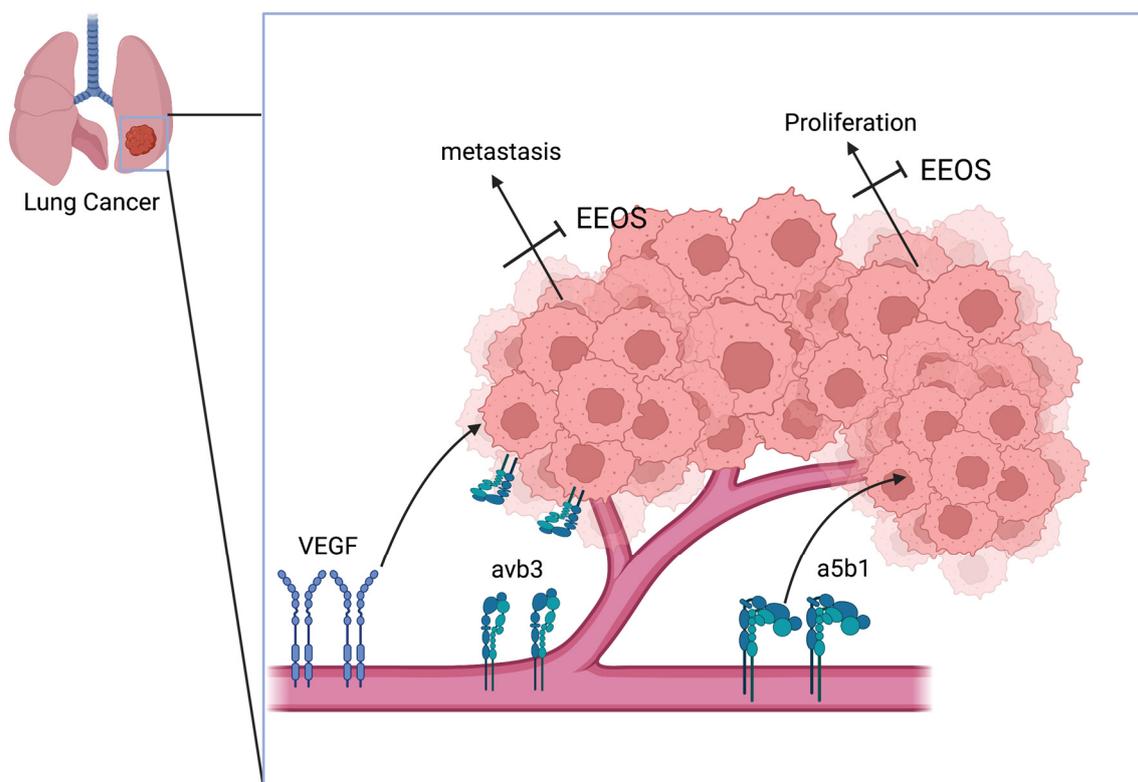


Figure 4. Schematic overview of the mechanism of *Ocimum sanctum* Linn. ethanolic extract, inhibiting the adhesion, proliferation, and migration of A549 human lung adenocarcinoma, mediated by the downregulation of $\alpha\beta3$, $\alpha5\beta1$, and VEGF. Overall, inhibition by EEOS will mitigate angiogenesis and metastasis of human lung adenocarcinoma cells.

5. Conclusions

Our findings demonstrate that EEOS disturbed the proliferation, angiogenesis, and migration of A549 cells, which may result from the disruption of cell adhesion and migration, as shown by the CCK-8 assay and scratch wound healing assay, as a consequence of the downregulation of $\alpha\beta3$ integrins, $\alpha5\beta1$ integrins, and VEGF. As a result, EEOS may represent a good therapeutic candidate for the treatment of lung adenocarcinoma. Further studies using in vivo methods are required to fully validate our findings in human lung adenocarcinoma growth.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, H.W. and D.L.K.; Methodology, H.W. and D.L.K.; Software, U.K.; Validation, H.W. and U.K.; formal analysis, U.K., H.W. and S.K.; Investigation, U.K., H.W. and D.A.A.N.; Resources, H.W., D.L.K. and D.A.A.N.; Data Curation, U.K., D.L.K. and H.W.; Writing—Original Draft Preparation, H.W. and U.K.; Writing—Review and Editing, H.W., S.E., S.K., D.A.A.N. and D.L.K.; Visualization, H.W.; Supervision, H.W. and D.L.K. Project Administration, H.W. and D.L.K.; Funding Acquisition, H.W. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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