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> [Phytother Res.](#) 2011 Jul;25(7):975-82. doi: 10.1002/ptr.3368.

# In vitro anti-herpes simplex virus activity of 1,2,4,6-tetra-O-galloyl- $\beta$ -D-glucose from *Phyllanthus emblica* L. (Euphorbiaceae)

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PMID: 21213355 DOI: [10.1002/ptr.3368](#)

## Abstract

In this study, 1,2,4,6-tetra-O-galloyl- $\beta$ -D-glucose (1246TGG), a polyphenolic compound isolated from traditional Chinese medicine *Phyllanthus emblica* L. (Euphorbiaceae), was found to inhibit herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) and type 2 (HSV-2) infection at different magnitudes of activity in vitro. Further studies revealed that 1246TGG directly inactivated HSV-1 particles, leading to the failure of early infection, including viral attachment and penetration. 1246TGG also suppressed the intracellular growth of HSV-1 within a long period post-infection (from 0 h p.i. to h p.i.), while it might exert an antiviral effect mainly before 3 h p.i. It inhibited HSV-1 E and L gene expressions as well as viral DNA replication but did not affect the RNA synthesis of IE gene in our study. Also, in the presence of 1246TGG, the synthesis of viral protein was reduced. Taken together, it was suggested that 1246TGG might exert anti-HSV activity both by inactivating extracellular viral particles and by inhibiting viral biosynthesis in host cells. These results warrant further studies on the antiviral mechanisms of 1246TGG and suggest that it might be a *candidate* for HSV therapy.

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