Supporting Information

The synthesis and evaluation of new benzophenone derivatives as tubulin polymerization inhibitors

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SI1. Biological assay

Cell Culture. The human cancer cell lines (A549, HeLa, A2780, HCT116, MGC803) used in this study were cultivated in DMEM containing 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 μ g /mL streptomycin, respectively. The cells were incubated at 37 °C under a 5% CO₂ and 90% relative humidity (RH) atmosphere.

MTT assay. The cells grown in the logarithmic phase were seeded into a 96-well plates (5×10^3 cells/well) for 24 h, then, they were exposed to different concentrations of the test compounds for 48 h. After attached cells were incubated with 5 mg/mL MTT (Sigma, USA) for another 4 h, the suspension was discarded and subsequently the dark blue crystals (formazan) were solubilized in dimethyl sulfoxied (DMSO). The solution was measured using a multifunction microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Flex Station 3) at the absorbance of 570 nm, and each experiment was performed at least in triplicate. IC₅₀ values which represent the drug concentrations required to cause 50% cancer cell growth inhibition were used to express the cytotoxic effects of each compound, and were calculated with GraphPad Prism Software version 5.02 (GraphPad Inc., La Jolla, CA, USA).

Antiproliferative activity of compound 10a against human normal cells. The cytotoxic effects of the target compound on normal human cells, were examined by MTT (3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thia- zolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2-H-tetrazolium bromide) assay. Briefly, when the cells reached the logarithmic phase, 5 _103 cells/well were harvested and plated into 96-well plates for 24 h, and then, the cells were exposed to different concentrations of the test compounds for 48 h; each experiment was performed in triplicate. Afterward, 20 ml of 5 mg/ml MTT (Sigma, USA) was added, and the cells were incubated for another 4 h. Then, the suspension was discarded and 150 ml of DMSO was added to each well. After the plates were shocked for 10 min to dissolve the dark blue crystals (formazan), the absorbance at 570 nm was measured using a multifunction microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Flex Station 3). The IC₅₀ values were calculated with Grap Pad Prism version 5.0.

In vitro tubulin polymerisation assay. The tubulin polymerisation assay was performed by an increase in fluorescence intensity, which can be easily recorded due to the incorporation of a fluorescent reporter, DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole), a fluorophore already known as a DNA intercalator. In our experiment, a commercial kit (cytoskeleton, cat. #BK011P) purchased from Cytoskeleton (Danvers, MA, USA), was used for the tubulin polymerisation. The final buffer concentration used for tubulin polymerisation contained 80.0 mM piperazine-N, N'-bis (2-ethanesulfonic acid) sequisodium salt (pH 6.9), 2.0 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM EGTA, 1 mM GTP, and 10.2% glycerol. First, 5 μ L of the tested compounds at the indicated concentrations was added and the mixture was warmed to 37 °C for 1 minute, then, the reaction was initiated by the addition of 55 μ L of the tubulin solution. The fluorescence intensity enhancement was recorded every 60sec for 90 min in a multifunction microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Flex Station 3) (emission wavelength is 410 nm, excitation wavelength is 340 nm). The area under the curve was used to determine the concentration that inhibited tubulin polymerisation by 50% (IC50), and was calculated with GraphPad Prism Software version 5.02 (GraphPad Inc., La Jolla, CA, USA).

Immunofluorescence microscopy. In a 10 mm confocal culture dish, 3X104 cells were grown for 24 h, and then incubated in the presence / absence of compound 10a at the indicated concentrations for another 12 h. After washed with phosphate buffer solution (PBS) and fixed in 4% pre-warmed (37 °C) paraformaldehyde for 15 min, the cells were permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 for 15 min and blocked for 30 min in 10% goat serum. Then, the cells were incubated with mouse anti-tubulin antibody (CST, USA) at 4 °C overnight, and were washed with PBS for three times and incubated with goat antimouse IgG/Alexa-Fluor 488 antibody (Invitrogen, USA) for 1 h. The samples were immediately visualized on a Zeiss LSM 570 laser scanning confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, Germany) after the nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342 (Sigma, USA) in the dark at room temperature for 30 min.

Cell cycle analysis. A549 cell were seeded in 6-well plates (3X105 cells/well) and incubated in the presence / absence of compound **10a** at the indicated concentrations for 24 h and then harvested by centrifugation, fixed in ice-cold 70% ethanol overnight. After the ethanol was removed in the next day, the cells were resuspended in the ice-cold PBS and treated with RNAse A (Keygen Biotech, China) at 37 °C for 30 min, followed by incubated with the DNA staining solution propidium iodide (PI, Keygen

Biotech, China) at 4 °C for 30 min. About 10,000 events were detected by flow cytometry (Beckman Coulter, Epics XL) at 488 nm. The data regarding the number of cells in different phases of the cell cycle were analysed by EXPO32 ADC analysis software.

Apoptosis analysis. The preparation of A549 cell sample was the same as cell cycle analysis. After incubation, cells were harvested and incubated with 5 μ L of Annexin-V/FITC (Keygen Biotech, China) in binding buffer (10 mM HEPES, 140 mM NaCl, and 2.5 mM CaCl₂ at pH 7.4) at room temperature for 15 min. PI solution was then added to the medium for another 10 min-incubation. Almost 10,000 events were collected for each sample and analysed by flow cytometry (Beckman Coulter, Epics XL). The percentage of apoptotic cells was calculated with EXPO32 ADC Analysis software.

Mitochondrial membrane potential assay. A lipophilic cationic dye, 5,5',6,6'-tetrachloro-1,1',3,3'-tetraethyl-benzimidazolcarbocyanine (JC-1, Beyotime, China) was used to monitor the level of MMP in the cells. At normal state, the MMP is high and JC-1 appears as aggregates, which indicated by red fluorescence. However, when apoptosis occurs, the MMP reduced and JC-1 displayed as monomers, which indicated by green fluorescence. We applied two methods which including flow cytometry and fluorescence microscopy to detected the MMP. For flow cytometry analysis, A549 cells were plated in 6-well plates (3X105 cells/well) and grown for 24 h, and treated with compound **10a** at the indicated concentrations for 48 h. Then the cells were harvested by centrifugation and incubated with JC-1 solution for 30 min. After briefly washing, the proportion of green and red fluorescence intensity were immediately detected and analysed by flow cytometry. For the fluorescence microscopy detection, A549 cells were plated in 6-well plates (3×105 cells/well) and grown for 24 h, and treated with compound **10a** at the indicated at the indicated by flow cytometry. For the fluorescence microscopy detection, A549 cells were plated in 6-well plates (3×105 cells/well) and grown for 24 h, and treated with compound **10a** at the indicated concentrations for another 48 h. Then the cells were stained with 2 μ M JC-1 at 37 °C for 30 min, washed with PBS and then the cell nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342 (Sigma, USA) for 10 min in the dark. The cell images were immediate detected by a fluorescence microscopy (EVOS FL Auto).

SI2. NMR spectrums of target compounds







c





5d

5e









5g





10a



10b









SI3. NMR spectrums of intermediate compounds







4b

4c







4e







4g









f1 (ppm)

-2

-3

-1

8a



8b



9a



9b



SI4. HPLC chromatograms of target compounds





峰 保留时间 类型	峰宽	峰面积	峰高	峰面积
# [min]	[min]	[mAU*s]	[mAU]	010
1 7.304 VV	0.1972	681.65546	50.59747	1.5583
2 8.336 MM	0.2459	4.30622e4	2918.20850	98.4417

5d					
DAD1 A, Sig=254,4 Ref=80 mAU 1 8000 700 6000 5000 4000 3000 2000 100 0 2,5	8 0,100 (D\DATA\ = 100/2015121 	5-25-80.D) B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	12.5 15	17.5 20	22.5 min
峰 保留时(# [min]	间 类型	峰宽 [min]	峰面积 [mAU*s]	峰高 [mAU] 	峰面积 8
1 5.54 2 8.40 3 8.85 5e	18 BV 02 MM 57 MM	0.0903 0.1537 0.1785	15.71390 450.36014 8868.97266	2.68394 48.83542 828.01196	0.1683 4.8244 95.0073
DAD1 A_Sig=254,4 Ref=60 mAU_ 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50	0,100 (D\DATAL\\ M\2016030	4-25-124.D)	8.426 9.9285		
峰 保留时间 # [min]	- -	。 。 峰宽 [min] 	峰面积 [mAU*s] 	峰高 [mAU] 	峰面积 %
2 9.28 3 10.33	85 BB 87 BB	0.2288	101.01812 8222.62598	6.11150 449.47678	1.2092 98.4258

5f









SI5. HR-MS of target compounds and some of intermediate compounds 5a





5b



Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 1.080 -> 1.080 Scan# : 163 -> 163

Measured region for 325.1442 m/z 325.1442 100.0-





Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 0.893 -> 0.893 Scan# : 135 -> 135







50.0-344.1363 343.4572



343.8 344.0 344.2 344.4 344.6 344.8 345.0

345.2

345.4

5e

5d



343.2

343.4

343.6

342.8 343.0





Rank	Score	Formula (M)	lon	Meas. m/z	Pred. m/z	Df. (mDa)	Df. (ppm)	Iso	DBE
1	60.69	C21 H22 O4	[M+H]+	339.1592	339.1591	0.1	0.29	60.69	11.0

5f

Event#: 1 MS(E+)	Ret. Time : 1.107 -> 1.107	Scan#: 167 -> 167
2 000-7	339.1	596
3.000e7-		
2.500e7-		
2.000e7-	3	61.1357
1.500e7-	340.1614	
1.000e7-	X	362 1393
5.000e6-	339.4806	699.2913
	341.1655	-700.2917
200.0	250.0 300.0 35	50.0 400.0 450.0 500.0 550.0 600.0 650.0 700.0 750.0







5g

Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 1.227 -> 1.227 Scan# : 185 -> 185

	341.	1211						
2.400e7- 2.200e7-								
2.000e7-		363.0973						
1.800e7-								
1.600e7-								
1.400e7-								
1.200e7-	10010001000							
1.000e7-	342.1238							
8.000e6-	N	364 1015						
6.000e6-	343.1202	304.1013						703,2141
4.000e6-	341 4418	365.0977						
2.000e6-		/						-704.2169
01,		k, _k, ⊨ , , , , ,						
200.0	250.0 300.0 3	50.0 400.0	450.0	500.0	550.0	600.0	650.0	700.0 750.0





5h



lon [M+H]+

10a

 Rank
 Score
 Formula (M)

 4
 71.49
 C22 H24 O6

 Meas. m/z
 Pred. m/z
 Df. (mDa)
 Df. (ppm)
 Iso
 DBE

 385.1638
 385.1646
 -0.8
 -2.08
 73.47
 11.0

Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 0.827 -> 0.827 Scan# : 125 -> 125

2.600e7- 2.400e7- 2.200e7- 2.000e7- 1.800e7- 1.600e7-	
2.400e7- 2.200e7- 2.000e7- 1.800e7- 1.600e7-	
2.200e7- 2.000e7- 1.800e7- 1.600e7-	
2.000e7- 1.800e7- 1.600e7-	
1.800e7- 1.600e7-	
1.600e7-	
1.400e7-	
1.200e7- 342 1412	
1.000e7-	
8.000e6- 380.0926	
6.000e6- 381.0890	
4.000e6-341.4601 703.2466	
2.000e6-	
O_{1}	

Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 0.827 -> 0.827 Scan# : 125 -> 125



10b





















Rank Score Formula (M)	lon	Meas. m	/z Pred. m/z	Df. (mDa)	Df. (ppm)	Iso	DBE
1 71.62 C21 H22 O5	[M+H]+	355.15	36 355.1540	-0.4	-1.13	71.86	11.0
4a							
Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 1.027 -> 1.027	Scan#: 155 -> 155						
	309.1494						
1.000e7							
9.000e6							
B.000e6							
7.000e6							
6 000e6							
5 000=6-							
4 00006	510						
3 000=6	349.1419						
2 000-05	350 1	115					
1.000-0	550.1	455.1829					
1.00065							
100.0 150.0 200.0 250.0	300.0 350.0 4	00.0 450.0 50	0.0 550.0 6	00.0 650.0	700.0	750.0	
Massured region for 349 1419 m/z							
349 1419							
100.0							
1 - M							
50.0-							
		350 1445					
		\wedge					
		/ [\					
348.6 348.8 349.0 349.2 349	0.4 349.6 349.8	350.0 350.2 3	350.4 350.6 3	350.8 351.0	351.2	351.4 3	51.6

Rank	Score Formula (M)	lon	Meas. m/z	Pred. m/z	Df. (mDa)	Df. (ppm)	Iso	DBE
1	85.32 C20 H22 O4	[M+Na]+	349.1419	349.1410	0.9	2.58	88.83	10.0

4b

Event#: 1 MS(E+)	Ret. Time : 0.987 -> 0.987	Scan#: 149 -> 149

3	09.1496
1.200e7-	
1.100e7-	
1.000e7-	
9.000e6-	
8.000e6-	
7.000e6-	
6.000e6-	
5.000e6-	
4.000e6-	349.1409
3.000e6-	250 1452
2.000e6	2 350.1453
1.000e6-	



4d

Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 0.960 -> 0.960 Scan# : 145 -> 145

	327.1	398
1.000e7	1	
9.000e6		
8.000e6		
7.000e6		
6.000e6		
5.000e6		367.1324
4.000e6-	328 1436	
3.000e6-	520.1450	
2.000e6-	327.4525	368.1346
1.000e6		
0 ⁴		
100.0 150	.0 200.0 250.0 300.0	350.0 400.0 450.0 500.0 550.0 600.0 650.0 700.0 750.0





4e







Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 1.027 -> 1.027 Scan# : 155 -> 155

Measured region for 363.1572 m/z



Rank	Score Formula (M)	lon	Meas. m/z	Pred. m/z	Df. (mDa)	Df. (ppm)	Iso	DBE
1	88.22 C21 H24 O4	[M+Na]+	363.1572	363.1567	0.5	1.38	89.06	10.0

4g

4f

Event#: 1 MS(E+) Ret. Time : 1.027 -> 1.027 Scan# : 155 -> 155







SI6. IR of some of intermediate compounds 4a









4c



4e



4g