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Semra UTKU¹, Fatma GÜMÜŞ², Sibel GÜR³, Aykut ÖZKUL⁴

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mersin University, 33169 Mersin-TURKEY

²Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Gazi University, 06330 Ankara-TURKEY

e-mail: fgumus@gazi.edu.tr

³Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kocatepe University, 03200 Afyonkarahisar-TURKEY

⁴Department of Virology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ankara University, 06110 Ankara-TURKEY

Abstract: Four platinum(II) and 4 platinum(IV) complexes with the structures $[PtL_2Cl_2]$, $[PtL_2l_2]$, $[PtL_2Cl_4]$, and $[PtL_2Cl_2(OH)_2]$ (L = 5(6)-non/orchloro-substituted-2-hydroxymethylbenzimidazole ligands as ``non-leaving groups"), respectively, were synthesized and characterized by their elemental analyses, and IR and 1H -NMR spectra. In vitro cytotoxic activities of the platinum(II) and platinum(IV) complexes were tested against the human MCF-7 (breast cancer) and HeLa (cervix cancer) cell lines using the cell culture method. In general, the platinum(II) complexes were more active than the corresponding platinum (IV) complexes. The complexes, which were found to be less active than cisplatin, exhibited cyctotoxicity comparable to carboplatin on the human MCF-7 and HeLa cell lines.

Key Words: Benzimidazole, cytotoxic activity, HeLa cell line, MCF-7 cell line, platinum(IV) complexes, platinum(II) complexes

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