

# Influence of processing and storage of integral grape juice (*Vitis labrusca* L.) on its physical and chemical characteristics, cytotoxicity, and mutagenicity *in vitro*

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Genet. Mol. Res. 16 (2): gmr16029670 Received March 16, 2017 Accepted April 27, 2017 Published May 31, 2017 DOI http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/gmr16029670

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**ABSTRACT.** Integral grape juice is extracted from the grape through processes that allow the retention of their natural composition. However, due to the severity of some processes, fruit juices can undergo changes in their quality. The present study evaluated the cytotoxic and mutagenic effects of integral grape juice by a cytokinesis-blocked micronucleus assay in *Rattus norvegicus* hepatoma cells (HTC) *in vitro. Vitis labrusca* L. (variety Concord) were produced organically and by a conventional system, and their juice was extracted by a hot extraction process. The organic grapes were subjected to ultraviolet-type C radiation (UV-C). Experiments were performed after production and after 6 months in storage. Physicochemical analyses revealed that UV-C irradiation of

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organic grapes, the juice production process, and storage resulted in nutraceutical alterations. However, none of the juice concentrations were cytotoxic to HTC cells by the cytokinesis-blocked proliferation index results or were mutagenic, because the formation of micronucleated cells was not induced. In general, juice induced cell proliferation, possibly due to the presence of vitamins and sugar content (total soluble solid). The data increased the understanding of food technology and confirmed the quality and safety consumption of these juices.

**Key words:** Antioxidants; Food technology; Metabolizing cell lines; Nutraceutical alterations; Hepatoma cells of *Rattus norvegicus*; Micronucleus

# **INTRODUCTION**

Grapevines (*Vitis* spp) are considered to be some of the most important fruit species, mainly due to the uses of the grape in wine production, grape juice, and other foods and because the grape is an excellent source of phenolic compounds (Ali et al., 2010).

Integral grape juice is a clear or cloudy liquid extracted from grapes through processes that retain their natural concentration and composition without the addition of sugar (Rizzon et al., 1998). Then, integral grape juice is rich in flavonols, anthocyanins, phenolic acids, hydroxycinnamic and hydroxybenzoic acids, resveratrol, glucose, fructose, amino acids, polypeptides, proteins, tartaric acid, malic acid, citric acid, vitamins such as thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, ascorbic acid, and inositol, and mineral elements such as potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, iron, manganese, copper, zinc, lithium, and rubidium (Melo et al., 2016; Nassiri-Asl and Hosseinzadeh, 2016; Singh et al., 2016).

However, due to the severity of some technological processes or due to the storage period, fruit juices can undergo extensive changes, and as a result, their characteristics may be modified or may generate substances that can cause damage to DNA, cells, metabolism of the body. Research has shown that anthocyanins, which are present in grapes, are quickly destroyed by heat during processing and by storage (Malacrida and Motta, 2006) and that heat treatment is the most destructive step during processing (Tagliazucchi et al., 2013). Moreover, during the storage period, antioxidants may auto-oxidize to form reactive oxygen species that can be mutagenic (Kaya et al., 2002).

Organic products are perceived to be safer and healthier than those produced by conventional agriculture. However, studies conflict on the influence of these systems of production on the nutritional quality of foods. Some studies show an increase of bioactive compounds in organic foods (Olsson et al., 2006) and others do not note any change (Kalinova and Vrchotova, 2011). Another factor that influences the content of bioactive compounds from grapes is the ultraviolet-type C radiation (UV-C). This radiation produces an abiotic stress in plant tissues and affects the secondary metabolism in different ways, for example, in the synthesis of resveratrol and flavonoids (Cantos et al., 2001).

Therefore, it is important to assess the risk caused by chemical exposure in human diets, assisting in the development of safe food standards. Thus, the National and Federal Regulatory Agencies highlight the use of the micronucleus test with mammalian cells, especially using the metabolizing cell lines, such as hepatoma cells of *Rattus norvegicus* (HTC; COM, 2011).

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Thus, in addition to studies, which assess the influence of processing, storage, and production system on the physical and chemical characteristics of foods (especially juices), studies on food security assessment through the mutagenicity and cytotoxicity assays are needed. So, this study evaluated the effects of grape juices produced by conventional and organic farming under the action of UV-C radiation on cytotoxicity and mutagenicity, after production and after 6 months of storage in metabolizing cells of *Rattus norvegicus in vitro*. These data can help ensure the quality and safety of this juice after these processes, supporting consumption without harming human health.

# **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

## Cell line - HTC

HTC cells derived from a *Rattus norvegicus* hepatoma were obtained in the Cell Bank in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The cells were grown in 25-cm<sup>2</sup> culture flasks containing 10 mL DMEM culture medium (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Invitrogen) and incubated at 37°C. The cell cycle in this cell line is approximately 24 h.

## **Treatment solution**

The grapes used in this study are *Vitis labrusca* L. variety Concord cultivated in Verê, which belongs to the microregion of Francisco Beltrão in the southwest region of Paraná, Brazil, in a subtropical climate, in the year of 2011. The grapes were obtained from two properties, one utilizing conventional growing practices (25°54'01"S and 52°53'51"W at an altitude of 564 m) and a second with organic growing practices (25°51'21"S and 52°55'06"W at an altitude of 492 m).

In the conventional system, chemical fertilizer on the soil and fungicides for the control of fungi were used. In the organic system, the soil had a green roof and copper sulfate, calcium hydroxide, and sulfur used for disease control.

The grapes were selected according to their degree of sanity, washed in chlorinated water (50 mg/L sodium hypochlorite, pH 5.0) and refrigerated ( $\pm$ 5°C).

The organic grapes were subjected to UV-C treatment by the method described by Cantos et al. (2001). We used the following parameters: radiation fluency rate of 65.6 J/m<sup>2</sup> and a distance of 30 cm from the light source. The organic grapes were arranged in a single layer on trays that were irradiated in a cabin equipped with three UV-C lamps (Philips<sup>®</sup> 90 W) for 5 min. Bunches were rotated 180°, and the light source remained on for another 5 min for a total irradiation time of 10 min. The irradiated organic grapes were stored for 3 days at  $25^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ C, 70% humidity, in the absence of light to promote the biosynthesis of bioactive compounds.

The integral juice was obtained by a hot extraction process at 90°C and stocked in glass bottles and stored in the dark for 6 months. *In vitro* evaluation and physicochemical analysis of conventional juice, organic juice, and organic juice of grapes treated with UV-C were performed immediately after the production (time 0) and after 6 months of juice storage.

## **Ethics statements**

The grapes used in this study were provided by farmers, which gave permission

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to conduct the study on your private land. Besides this, the field studies did not involve endangered or protected species.

## In vitro evaluation

## Cytokinesis-blocked micronucleus assay

The cells (10<sup>6</sup>) were grown for 24 h in flasks containing 5 mL culture medium. Following this initial incubation, the cells were incubated with Cytochalasin B (98%, CAS 14930-96-2, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA; 3.0  $\mu$ g/mL culture medium for 26 h) and with the treatment solutions (24 h) to evaluate their cytotoxicity and mutagenicity as described by Fenech (2000). Concentrations of 2, 10, and 20  $\mu$ L conventional juice, organic juice, and organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C per mL of culture medium at time 0 (immediately after production) and after 6 months of juice storage were tested. As a negative control, 20  $\mu$ L phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) per mL of culture medium was added. The positive control was doxorubicin (DOX, 98%, CAS 25316-40-9) (Akcros, New Brunswick, NJ, USA) at a final concentration of 0.2  $\mu$ g/mL culture medium.

After 24 h of treatment, the cells were harvested according to a previously published protocol by Salvadori et al. (2003). Briefly, the cells were trypsinized (500  $\mu$ L trypsin-0.025% EDTA; Gibco at 37°C), pre-fixed with a drop of formaldehyde, centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 min, hypotonized (1.5 mL 1% sodium citrate), centrifuged again and fixed (5 mL of a 3:1 mixture methanol:acetic acid). The slides were prepared with1 drop of the material collected on the blade, coated with a film of cold distilled water, stained with Giemsa (5%), and refrigerated.

We selected binucleated cells, identified micronuclei, and calculated the cytokinesisblocked proliferation index (CBPI) as described by Fenech (2000). All experiments were performed in three biological replicates. To assess the frequency of binucleated cells with micronuclei (BCMN), 3000 binucleated cells were analyzed per treatment, and 1500 cells were counted to determine the CBPI, according to the following formula: CBPI (%) = number of mononuclear cells (x1) + Bi (x2) + multi (x3)/total number of cells. The percentage of cytostasis was calculated by the following formula (OECD, 2010): % cytostasis = 100 - 100 [(CBPI<sub>Treatment</sub> - 1)  $\div$  (CBPI<sub>Control</sub> - 1)].

# **Physicochemical analysis**

## *Total soluble solids, total titratable acidity, pH, and color*

The determination of total soluble solids, total titratable acidity, and pH of juices (conventional, organic, and organic from grapes treated with UV-C) were performed according to the methods described by Instituto Adolfo Lutz (2008).

Instrumental color analysis of juices (conventional, organic, and organic from grapes treated with UV-C) was performed with a colorimeter (Minolta CR-300). The juices were placed on Petri dishes with 5 cm in diameter and 2 cm in height and color parameters were measured: L\*, a\*, and b\*, where L\* indicates the lightness (0 = black and 100 = white) and a\* and b\* represent chromaticity coordinates (+a\* = red, -a\* = green, +b\* = yellow, -b\* = blue). Color parameters were converted into hue angle, H° = tan - 1 (b\* / a\*), indicating Hue angle (H°) of the sample (0° or 360° = red, 90 = yellow, 180 = green, 270 = blue) (Zhang et al., 2008).

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## Total phenol compounds

The total phenolic compound content of juices (conventional, organic, and organic from grapes treated with UV-C) was determined by the colorimetric method based by Singleton and Rossi (1965). A 1-mL aliquot of each juice, 60 mL ultrapure water and 5 mL Folin- Ciocalteu reagent were added to a 100-mL volumetric flask. After 8 min, 20 mL 20% sodium carbonate solution was added, and the volume was brought to 100 mL with ultrapure water. This mixture was stored away from light for 2 h and filtered. The absorbance of each sample at 725 nm was measured in a spectrophotometer Femto 800XI. Preliminary analyses of the samples showed high levels of phenolic compounds, and the samples were diluted 2.5 times. The results are reported as mg gallic acid equivalent/100 mL juice.

## Anthocyanins contents

The total anthocyanin content of juices (conventional, organic, and organic from grapes treated with UV-C) was measured by the pH difference method according to Lee et al. (2005). Dilutions of each juice samples were made in a 50-mL volumetric flask with a pH 1.0 buffer solution and were read at 520 nm in a spectrophotometer Femto 800XI. We determined the absorbance of the samples diluted with buffer solution pH 1.0 and pH 4.5, at wavelengths of 520 and 700 nm, respectively. The results are reported as mg cyanidin-3-glucoside/100 mL juice.

## Antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of juices (conventional, organic, and organic from grapes treated with UV-C) was determined for four dilutions of each sample of juice by the DPPH method (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) as described by Brand-Wiliams et al. (1995), with modifications as in Rufino et al. (2007). A 0.1-mL aliquot of each dilution was added to test tubes with 3.9 mL of the DPPH radical, and the control solution consisted of 0.1 mL methyl alcohol, acetone, and water. The homogenization was carried out in shaker tubes. After 30 min of reaction, absorbance was measured at 515 nm with a spectrophotometer Femto 800XI. Quantifications were based on a standard curve at concentrations of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60  $\mu$ M, from an initial DPPH solution (60  $\mu$ M). The results are reported as EC<sub>50</sub> (mL juice/g DPPH); that is, the values obtained correspond to the quantity of sample required to reduce the initial concentration of DPPH radical by 50%.

Besides, the free radical scavenging activity was determined from a standard curve of Trolox (6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid). Solutions were prepared at concentrations of 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 3.0  $\mu$ M from an initial 20  $\mu$ M Trolox solution. For each concentration, 20, 100, 200, 300, and 600  $\mu$ L were transferred to test tubes, and 4 mL DPPH solution was added; the test tubes were shaken, and their absorbance at 515 nm was measured in a spectrophotometer Femto 800XI after 30 min of reaction. The results are reported in Trolox equivalent antioxidant activity (TEAC) in  $\mu$ M/mL juice.

## **Statistical analysis**

Statistical analysis of the mean number of BCMN, the CBPI, the mean values of pH, total soluble solids, total titratable acidity, total phenolic compounds, anthocyanins,

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antioxidant activity by EC<sub>50</sub>, and Trolox methodology and color, was carried out by analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA), followed by the Tukey test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ , P < 0.05, N = 3), by the GraphPad InStat Program.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results in Figure 1 show that no concentration (2, 10, or 20  $\mu$ L/mL) of the juice that was evaluated (conventional, organic, or organic from grapes treated with UV-C) significantly induced the formation of micronucleated cells given that their BCMN values were similar to the negative control by the Tukey test. Moreover, the highest concentration (20  $\mu$ L/mL) of organic grape juice (time 0) and conventional grape juice (6 months) presented an average number of micronucleated cells 2.5 times lower than that found for the mutagen DOX.



**Figure 1.** Mean and standard deviation of the number of binucleated cells with micronuclei (BCMN) of negative control (CO) (20  $\mu$ L PBS) and groups treated with doxorubicin (DOX; 0.2  $\mu$ g/mL), integral grape juice from conventional grapes (Conv), organic grapes (Org), and organic grapes after treatment with UV-C (Org UVC) (2, 10, and 20  $\mu$ L/mL), immediately after production (time 0) and after 6 months of storage. N = 3. \*Statistically significant result compared to negative control.

Similarly, Düsman et al. (2014), evaluating grape juices produced by the same extraction method of this study and obtained from the same farm, but in the harvest of 2012 (one year after the present study), showed that none of the juices, soon after its production, was mutagenic by the micronucleus test. Other studies have not found mutagenicity by Pinot Noir (2, 10, and 20  $\mu$ L/mL) in Chinese hamster lung fibroblasts (V79) by the comet assay *in vitro* (Edenharder et al., 2002) nor in concentrated blue grape juice (0.5 mL/Kg) by the mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay *in vivo* (Edenharder et al., 2003).

This non-mutagenic activity might be due to physicochemical analyses and bioactive compounds (Table 1), which indicates the presence of phenolic compounds, anthocyanins, and antioxidant activity in the grape juices.

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**Table 1.** Physicochemical characteristics and bioactive compounds of integral juices, immediately after production (time 0) and after 6 months of storage (6 months).

Groups		pH	AC	TSS	TPC	ANT	EC <sub>50</sub>	TEAC	°Hue
Time 0	Conv	$2.5 \pm 0.00$	$0.9 \pm 0.01$	$11.7 \pm 0.25$	$155.78 \pm 9.48$	$9.4 \pm 0.25$	$73.2 \pm 6.10$	$9.9 \pm 0.13$	$15.6 \pm 0.34$
	Org	$3.3 \pm 0.06^{a}$	$0.9 \pm 0.01$	$11.0 \pm 0.00^{a}$	$148.4 \pm 3.69$	$13.1 \pm 0.20^{a}$	$76.1 \pm 1.40$	$9.8 \pm 0.51$	$12.5 \pm 1.75$
	Org UV-C	$3.3 \pm 0.07^{a}$	$0.9 \pm 0.00$	$11.0 \pm 0.00^{a}$	$155.5 \pm 1.92$	$13.5 \pm 0.45^{a}$	$59.6 \pm 6.03^{ab}$	$11.9 \pm 0.24^{ab}$	$15.6 \pm 0.34$
6 months	Conv	$3.0 \pm 0.01$	$1.0 \pm 0.04^{a}$	$11.7 \pm 0.00$	$136.7 \pm 12.14^{a}$	$6.7 \pm 0.25^{a}$	$36.0 \pm 2.59^{a}$	$4.6 \pm 0.09^{a}$	$5.0 \pm 1.54^{a}$
	Org	$3.1 \pm 0.00$	$0.7 \pm 0.03^{bd}$	$11.4 \pm 0.14^{b}$	$149.5 \pm 3.49$	$7.2 \pm 1.44^{b}$	$33.3 \pm 1.98^{b}$	$5.3 \pm 0.07^{bd}$	$17.7 \pm 1.07^{bd}$
	Org UV-C	$3.1 \pm 0.01$	$0.8 \pm 0.06^{cde}$	$11.3 \pm 0.14^{d}$	$153.8 \pm 0.80$	$7.4 \pm 0.15^{\circ}$	$29.6 \pm 2.76^{\circ}$	$4.8 \pm 0.02^{\circ}$	9.4 ± 1.59 <sup>cde</sup>

Integral juices from conventional grapes (Conv), organic grapes (Org), and organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C (Org UV-C). N = 3. AC = acidity - mg tartaric acid/100 mL juice; TSS = total soluble solids - °Brix; TPC = total phenolic compounds - mg gallic acid/100 mL juice; ANT = anthocyanins - mg cyanidin 3-glucoside/100 mL juice; EC<sub>50</sub> = quantity of sample required to reduce the initial concentration of DPPH radical by 50% - mL juice/g DPPH; DPPH = 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl - mg/g DPPH; TEAC = Trolox equivalent antioxidant activity -  $\mu$ M/ mL juice; °Hue = color parameters - hue angle. "Statistically significant result compared to conventional juice, time 0. bStatistically significant result compared to organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C, time 0. dStatistically significant result compared to conventional juice, 6 months.

According to Rizzon et al. (1998), juice preparation, especially the temperature and extraction time, regulates the solubility and the intensity of diffusion of substances of the film to the wort, strongly influencing the chemical composition of the final product. Processing is performed to achieve desired results such as killing or inactivating microorganisms or the inactivation of enzymes and anti-nutritional factors (van Boekel and Jongen, 1997). The juices in the current study exhibited pH values ranging from 2.5 to 3.3 (Table 1), which are unfavorable for microbial growth. These results were similar to data from a study by Rizzon and Miele (1995), where juices of the Concord variety were evaluated, and pH values of 2.8 to 3.43 were found.

The titratable acidity of grape juices analyzed was also within the values determined by the Brazilian legislation (BRASIL, 2004) (<0.9 mg tartaric acid/100 mL juice), similar to results found by Rizzon and Miele (1995) (0.41 to 1.01 mg tartaric acid/100 mL juice). Only conventional grape juice showed titratable acidity of 1.0 mg tartaric acid/100 mL juice after 6 months of storage.

However, such treatments, especially heat treatment, can result in undesired reactions, mostly of a chemical nature. An oxidation can inactivate antioxidants and vitamins or lead to off-flavors such as rancidity (van Boekel and Jongen, 1997); a reducing sugar may react with amino groups (from free amino acids or lysine residues in proteins) to form low molecular weight compounds that can affect the nutritive value and flavor; the formation of brown pigments may alter the juice color; and the formation of mutagenic compounds may lead to toxicological effects (O'Brien and Morrissey, 1989; van Boekel and Jongen, 1997). These undesirable effects and the formation of harmful compounds possibly were not observed in the present study because the juices were not mutagenic to the *Rattus norvegicus* hepatoma cells in culture.

In organic farming, chemical substances such as pesticides and synthetic fertilizers are not used to grow crops. The plants are more susceptible to phytopathogens, and this causes the plant to produce higher amounts of phenolic compounds as a means to defend itself. Besides, the ripening period of stemmed plants from organic agriculture is longer than in conventional farming, and because flavonoids are formed during the ripening period, it is believed that the phenolic content of the plant is higher in organically grown plants (Grinder-Pedersen et al.,

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2003). However, in this study, all the juices yielded statistically similar amounts of phenolic compounds (Table 1) regardless of their conventional or organic production. Similar data were found by Tassoni et al. (2013), who found no significant differences between polyphenol levels in conventional and organic farming practices. Furthermore, the mutagenic activities of organic and conventional juices were similar, which corroborates the highlighted by Granato et al. (2016): differences between organic and conventional grape juices are negligible from the nutritional and biochemical perspectives.

Compared to common conventional farming practices, organic soil management practices and chemical control of weeds provide a higher yield due to reduced competition for soil and water reserves given the reduced number of weeds and improved soil physical properties (Susaj et al., 2013). However, in the present study, the juice from conventional grapes had statistically more sugars (total soluble solids) than the juice from organic grapes at time 0 (conventional =  $11.7 \pm 0.25^{\circ}$ Brix and organic =  $11.0 \pm 0.00^{\circ}$ Brix). But, all conventional and organic juices studied had total soluble solid levels between 11.0 and 11.7 °Brix values, smaller than those required by the Brazilian legislation (BRASIL, 2004) (>14^{\circ}Brix). These levels of total soluble solids can be attributed to factors such as soil, climate, and time of harvest, which may have promoted the dilution of solids as suggested by Bueno et al. (2002).

In the present study, the phenolic compound content and mutagenic activity did not differ with UV-C irradiation of organic grapes, at time 0. Düsman et al. (2014) also showed that the post-harvest treatment of organic and conventional grapes with UV-C did not alter the mutagenicity in HTC cells. In a study by Cantos et al. (2001), the UV-C irradiation (510 W) of grapes after harvesting increased the resveratrol content eleven times and in a study by González-Barrio et al. (2009), the phenol concentration increased 35 times. Thus, although the amounts of phenolic compounds did not change in the present study, the antioxidant potential at time 0 was more efficient in the juices from organic grapes treated with UV-C than in the untreated organic grapes (EC<sub>50</sub> organic UV-C =  $59.6 \pm 6.03$  mg/mL juice and EC<sub>50</sub> organic =  $76.12 \pm 1.40$  mg/mL juice; TEAC organic UV-C =  $11.9 \pm 0.24$  mg/mL juice and TEAC organic =  $9.8 \pm 0.51$  µM/mL juice). In addition to the lack of formation of mutagenic compounds, irradiation of organic grapes increased their antioxidant capacity.

Despite this, after 6 months of storage, the conventional grape juice had statistically reduced levels of phenolic compounds (time  $0 = 155.78 \pm 9.48 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ mL}$  juice and 6 months = 136.7 ± 12.14 mg/100 mL juice) and anthocyanins (time  $0 = 9.46 \pm 0.25 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ mL}$  juice and 6 months = 6.7 ± 0.25 mg/100 mL juice) due to the storage and degradation of these compounds. The anthocyanin contents were also statistically reduced in the organic juice (13.1 ± 0.20 mg/100 mL juice to  $7.2 \pm 1.4 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ mL}$  juice) and organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C (13.5 ± 0.45 mg/100 mL juice to  $7.4 \pm 0.15 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ mL}$  juice). According to Malacrida and Motta (2005), the reduction in anthocyanin content in fruit juices can be attributed to oxidation, which can start during the juice extraction process and continue during the storage period.

Alterations in anthocyanin content can influence the aroma, flavor, and color of juice (Malacrida and Motta, 2005). In this study, the reduction of color was statistically significant in conventional and organic juices from grapes treated with UV-C (Table 1).

In organic juices and organic juices from grapes treated with UV-C, the levels of phenolic acids remained stable during the storage process (Table 1), which rules out an imbalance in the acid dissociation as a function of storage time. After 10 months of storage, Gollücke et al. (2009) found high phenolic compound levels, stability, and antioxidant activity

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maintenance in the Concord grape juice. The stability of phenolic compounds in the present study agreed with a lack of mutagenic activity because previous studies (Stagos et al., 2006) have shown that the oxidation of flavonoids may result in the formation of  $H_2O_2$ , which may cause DNA damage.

Furthermore, the oxidation of Vitamin C, present in grape juice, is dependent on factors such as light, temperature, the presence of oxidizing enzymes or metal catalysts and can result in mutagenic effects, as shown by Franke et al. (2004). However, the grape juice tested here exhibited no mutagenic potential, possibly due to the high quantity of phenolic compounds (Table 1), which may protect the food from easily oxidizable compounds and inhibit the oxidation of Vitamin C, carotenoids, and unsaturated fatty acids (Sá, 2012).

Moreover, despite the alteration in some physicochemical parameters, the juices showed no cytotoxic potential. The CBPI results (Table 2) indicate that this parameter was statistically similar to the negative control in all juice concentrations evaluated. The absence of toxicological effects has been confirmed for grape seed extracts *in vivo* (Lluís et al., 2011) and by grape juices *in vitro* (Düsman et al., 2014).

Groups		CBPI (ave	rage ± SD)	% Cytostasis		
		Time 0	6 months	Time 0	6 months	
СО		$1.67 \pm 0.04$	$1.47 \pm 0.09$	-	-	
DOX		$1.53 \pm 0.07$	$1.54 \pm 0.01$	20.89	-14.89	
Conv	2 µL/mL	$1.73 \pm 0.01$	$1.60 \pm 0.04$	-8.95	-27.66	
	10 µL/mL	$1.73 \pm 0.04$	$1.61 \pm 0.06$	-8.95	-29.78	
	20 µL/mL	$1.65 \pm 0.08$	$1.62 \pm 0.11$	2.98	-31.91	
Org	2 µL/mL	$1.59 \pm 0.06$	$1.57 \pm 0.07$	11.94	-21.27	
	10 µL/mL	$1.69 \pm 0.03$	$1.65 \pm 0.01$	-2.98	-38.29	
	20 µL/mL	$1.74 \pm 0.08$	$1.64 \pm 0.04$	-10.44	-36.17	
Org UV-C	2 µL/mL	$1.60 \pm 0.10$	$1.43 \pm 0.06$	10.44	8.51	
	10 µL/mL	$1.64 \pm 0.01$	$1.58 \pm 0.09$	4.47	-23.40	
	20 uL/mL	$1.62 \pm 0.08$	$1.64 \pm 0.04^{a}$	7.46	-36.17	

 Table 2. Cytokinesis-blocked proliferation index (CBPI) and percentage of cytostasis compared to the negative control.

CO: negative control (20  $\mu$ L PBS); DOX: 0.2  $\mu$ g Doxorubicin/mL; Conv: integral grape juice from conventional grapes; Org: organic grapes; Org UV-C: organic grapes after treatment with UV-C; Time 0: 2, 10, and 20  $\mu$ L/mL, immediately after production; 6 months: after 6 months of storage. N = 3. SD = standard deviation. Negative cytostasis corresponds to the stimulation of proliferation. \*Statistically significant result compared to 2  $\mu$ L/mL organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C at 6 months.

In general, juice induced cell proliferation in this study, indicated by a negative cytostasis percentage (Table 2). The induction of cell proliferation is possibly due to the vitamins and sugar content (total soluble solids) present in the juice, while the total soluble solids showed a positive correlation with CBPI in most of the juice concentrations evaluated here. Wang et al. (2014) showed that when Vitamin C, one vitamin present in grapes, is added at specific concentrations in the culture medium, it acts as a growth promoter and increases cell proliferation and DNA synthesis. At time 0, 20  $\mu$ L/mL of the conventional juice, 2  $\mu$ L/mL of the organic grape juice, and three concentrations of the organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C indicated cytostatic cells (conventional 20  $\mu$ L/mL: 2.98%, organic 2  $\mu$ L/mL: 11.94%, organic UV-C 2  $\mu$ L/mL: 10.44%, 10  $\mu$ L/mL: 4.47%, and 20  $\mu$ L/mL: 7.46%). However, these percentages were much lower than the positive control, which showed approximately 20.89% cytostasis. At 6 months, only the 2  $\mu$ L/mL concentration of organic juice from grapes treated with UV-C indicated 8.51% cytostatic cells. The predominance of cytostatic HTC cells

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in groups of juice that grapes were treated with UV-C may be due to the effect of UV-C irradiation, which stimulates the production of resveratrol in postharvest grapes (Cantos et al., 2001). However, according to Stocco et al. (2012), phytoalexin has protective effects on cells at low concentrations and can sensitize the cells at high concentrations.

The results of this study show that the process of grape juice production and the new technology in this area, such as the use of UV-C irradiation, altered the levels of anthocyanins and antioxidant activity and did not cause cytotoxic and mutagenic activity. Furthermore, despite nutraceutical reductions, juices stored for 6 months did not induce the formation of cytotoxic and mutagenic substances.

Combined with the proven nutritional benefit of the consumption of grapes to human health, the data from this study show that grape juice has great nutraceutical potential regardless of the type of farming used (conventional or organic) and is not harmful to *Rattus norvegicus* hepatoma cells, which have a metabolism similar to that of human cells. These results supply some insight into the effects of food processing technology and, together with physicochemical analysis data, ensure the quality and safety of consumption of these juices by humans.

## **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), the Laboratory of Mutagenesis and Environmental Monitoring at the State University of Maringá (UEM), the Laboratory of Food Biochemistry, the Unit of Teaching, Research and Extension of Fruits, Vegetables, and Beverages at the Federal Technological University of Paraná (UTFPR) Francisco Beltrão, Paraná, Brazil.

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