

UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE MONTES CLAROS

Otávio Cardoso Filho

Efeitos do resveratrol na caquexia associada ao câncer: ensaios *in vivo* no modelo tumoral murino singênico de melanoma cutâneo em camundongos C57BL/6.

Montes Claros  
2018

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Orientador: Prof. Dr. Alfredo Mauricio Batista de Paula

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UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE MONTES CLAROS  
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APROVADO(A)

REPROVADO(A)

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## RESUMO

A caquexia é uma síndrome paraneoplásica associada à progressão do câncer, caracterizada pela anorexia e perda ponderal involuntária, sobretudo de massa esquelética e adiposa, com consequente impacto negativo sobre a resposta terapêutica antineoplásica, a qualidade de vida e o tempo de sobrevida de indivíduos com câncer. O presente estudo avaliou os aspectos metodológicos relacionados à caquexia experimental associada ao modelo tumoral murino singênico de melanoma cutâneo em camundongos C57Bl/6. Adicionalmente, investigar potenciais efeitos anticaquéticos promovidos pelo resveratrol nesse modelo de caquexia associado ao câncer. Por meio de uma revisão sistemática da literatura, contemplaram-se análises metodológicas de indução da caquexia em modelo murino, abordagens farmacológicas e os principais achados relacionados ao diagnóstico da doença. Para isso, títulos e palavras-chave foram consultados em bases de dados eletrônicas (MEDLINE, PUBMED, EMBASE, Scopus, SciELO e Web of Science). Cada estudo selecionado foi avaliado individualmente e a qualidade metodológica dos estudos usando a escala de Jadad. Inicialmente, foram selecionadas 57 publicações, sendo que sete destes preencheram os critérios de inclusão. O modelo mais comum de MC em camundongos tem sido estabelecido com inoculação subcutânea de células de melanoma murino B16F10 na região dorsal dos animais fêmeas C57BL6. A caquexia relacionada com o CM ocorre com a progressão do tumor e o diagnóstico de caquexia baseia-se principalmente no peso corporal associado na maioria dos estudos com massa do músculo gastrocnêmio ou tecido adiposo visceral. A abordagem terapêutica anticaquética relacionada ao melanoma cutâneo (MC) tem sido realizada apenas com anti-inflamatórios. Os tratamentos que promovem efeitos anticaquéticos são aqueles que também reduzem o volume do tumor concomitantemente. Em conclusão, poucos parâmetros são usados para definir a caquexia no modelo de camundongos e o efeito de anti-inflamatórios no modelo de MC de camundongo, associada à caquexia, está condicionado à redução do tumor. Com objetivo de investigar os efeitos anticaquéticos promovidos pelo uso do resveratrol (Resv.) em tecidos alvos da síndrome e na sobrevida de camundongos C57Bl/6 submetidos ao modelo tumoral singênico de caquexia associada ao melanoma cutâneo experimental. Inocularam-se células B16F10 murinas no flanco de cinquenta e oito camundongos fêmeas C57BL/6. O diagnóstico de CRC foi estabelecido individualmente considerando perda de peso  $\geq 5\%$ . O resv. foi administrado a 200 e 400mg /Kg de peso corpóreo usando gavagem oral em camundongos controles e experimentais durante 12 dias. O consumo de água e alimentos, peso corporal e tamanho do tumor foram mensurados diariamente. Os níveis séricos de albumina e proteína C-reativa (PCR) foram avaliados por imuno-ensaios enzimáticos. Força muscular esquelética, volume e massa foram avaliados usando um medidor de força de prensão, um dispositivo de ultrassom de alta frequência e uma balança analítica, respectivamente. As amostras de músculo esquelético, tecido adiposo branco e marrom, foram coletadas e submetidas à análise morfométrica e de expressão gênica. Camundongos tratados com resv. promoveram um atraso no estabelecimento da CRC, com ganho de peso corporal, de músculo esquelético (ME) e melhora na sobrevida de camundongos com CRC ( $p < 0,01$ ,  $p < 0,001$  e  $p < 0,18$  respectivamente). Aumentou o volume do ME, a força muscular e preservou a perda de fibras musculares (200mg /Kg,  $p < 0,001$  e 400mg /Kg,  $p < 0,01$ ). Reduziu o peso do TAB e a área de adipócitos ( $p < 0,01$ ). Promoveu diminuição na inflamação crônica de baixo grau (200mg /Kg,  $p < 0,001$ , e 400mg /Kg,  $p < 0,01$ ). Constatou-se que a administração de resv. em camundongos C57BL/6 em modelo de caquexia relacionada ao MC singênico, apresenta efeitos anticaquéticos e melhora a sobrevida.

Palavras-chave: melanoma cutâneo; terapias; peso corporal; sobrevida; músculo esquelético.

## ABSTRACT

Cachexia is a paraneoplastic syndrome associated with cancer progression, characterized by anorexia and involuntary weight loss, especially skeletal and adipose mass, with a consequent negative impact on the antineoplastic therapeutic response, the quality of life and the survival time of individuals with cancer. The present study evaluated the methodological aspects related to the experimental cachexia associated with the syngeneic murine tumoral model of cutaneous melanoma in C57Bl / 6 mice. Additionally, investigate the potential anticoagulant effects promoted by resveratrol in this cancer-associated cachexia model. Through a systematic review of the literature, we contemplated methodological analyzes of cachexia induction in murine model, pharmacological approaches and the main findings related to the diagnosis of the disease. For this, titles and keywords were consulted in electronic databases (MEDLINE, PUBMED, EMBASE, Scopus, SciELO and Web of Science). Each selected study was evaluated individually and the methodological quality of the studies using the Jadad scale. Initially, 57 publications were selected, of which seven met the inclusion criteria. The most common model of MC in mice has been established with subcutaneous inoculation of B16F10 murine melanoma cells in the dorsal region of female C57BL6 animals. CM-related cachexia occurs with tumor progression and the diagnosis of cachexia is based primarily on body weight associated with most studies with gastrocnemius muscle mass or visceral adipose tissue. The anticancer therapeutic approach related to cutaneous melanoma (MC) has been performed only with anti-inflammatory drugs. Treatments that promote anticoagulant effects are those that also reduce tumor volume concomitantly. In conclusion, few parameters are used to define cachexia in the mouse model, and the effect of anti-inflammatory drugs on the mouse CM model associated with cachexia is conditioned to tumor reduction. The objective of this study was to investigate the anticoagulant effects promoted by the use of resveratrol (Resv.) In target tissues of the syndrome and in the survival of C57Bl / 6 mice submitted to the syngeneic tumor model of cachexia associated with experimental cutaneous melanoma. Murine B16F10 cells were inoculated into the flank of fifty-eight female C57BL / 6 mice. The diagnosis of CRC was established individually considering weight loss  $\geq 5\%$ . The resv. was administered at 200 and 400 mg / kg body weight using oral gavage in control and experimental mice for 12 days. Water and food intake, body weight and tumor size were measured daily. Serum levels of albumin and C-reactive protein (CRP) were assessed by enzyme immunoassays. Skeletal muscle strength, volume and mass were evaluated using a grip force gauge, a high frequency ultrasound device and an analytical balance, respectively. Samples of skeletal muscle, white and brown adipose tissue were collected and submitted to morphometric analysis and gene expression. Mice treated with resv. ( $p < 0.01$ ,  $p < 0.001$  and  $p < 0.18$ , respectively) were associated with a delay in the establishment of CRC, with body weight gain, skeletal muscle (ME) and improvement in survival. Increased ME volume, muscle strength and preserved the loss of muscle fibers (200mg / kg,  $p < 0.001$  and 400mg / kg,  $p < 0.01$ ). Reduced TAB weight and adipocyte area ( $p < 0.01$ ). It promoted a decrease in chronic inflammation of low grade (200mg / kg,  $p < 0.001$ , and 400mg / kg,  $p < 0.01$ ). It was found that the administration of resv. in C57BL / 6 mice in a cachexia model related to the syngeneic MC, has anticoagulant effects and improves survival.

**Keywords:** cutaneous melanoma; therapies; body weight; survival; skeletal muscle.

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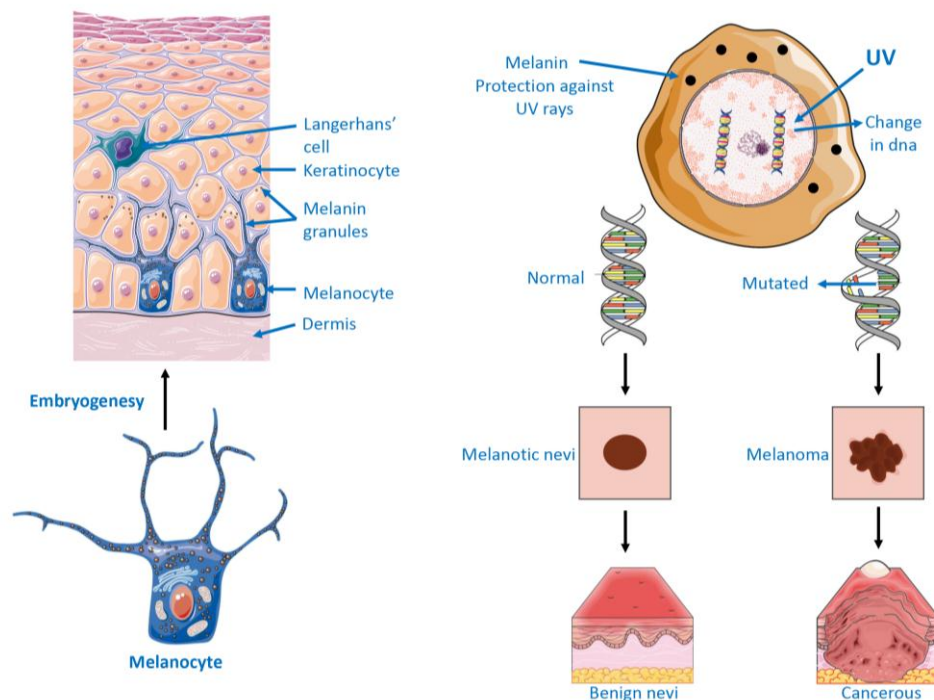
## 1 INTRODUÇÃO

### 1.1 Melanoma cutâneo

O melanoma cutâneo é um tipo de câncer de pele com baixa incidência, entretanto com elevado índice de letalidade. É responsável por 75% das mortes relacionadas ao câncer de pele devido à sua tendência em desenvolver metástase linfática e hematogênica (1). Apesar de ainda ser considerada de baixa incidência, a partir do século XX tem sido uma das neoplasias que mais aumentou o número de casos e índices de mortalidade (2, 3). Segundo a Organização Mundial da Saúde, a cada ano, estima-se a incidência de 2-3 milhões de casos de câncer de pele e, apesar do melanoma representar apenas 132.000 desses casos, a maioria das mortes é provocada por esse tipo de neoplasia.

As características fenotípicas e ambientais são consideradas fatores de risco, e neste contexto populações de pele clara são suscetíveis, o que favoreceu o maior aumento da incidência de melanoma nas últimas décadas em algumas regiões (4). Populações, como as europeias, norte-americanas e oceânicas, representam quase 82% da incidência global e aproximadamente 64% de mortalidade associada à doença (5). Austrália e Nova Zelândia são os países com maior número de casos novos no mundo (6). Segundo o Instituto Nacional de Câncer, no Brasil estima-se, para o biênio 2018-2019, que sejam diagnosticados cerca de 6.260 novos casos de melanoma cutâneo por ano.

O melanoma cutâneo é um tumor maligno de origem neuroectodérmica (7), considerado uma doença multi-fatorial decorrente da interação entre fatores genéticos e a exposição ambiental (8). Originado nos melanócitos, células dendríticas derivadas da crista neural, que migram na embriogenese para a epiderme (9), sendo encontrados principalmente na camada basal da pele, entre a epiderme e a derme (10). Essa célula tem a função de produzir e transferir para os queratinócitos a melanina, responsável pela proteção do núcleo contra possíveis danos no DNA, causados pela absorção da radiação ultravioleta (UV)(9). Seu crescimento não canceroso resulta na formação de nevos melanocíticos benignos (11). Entretanto, a célula pode sofrer transformações e apresentar desenvolvimento canceroso e se tornar um melanoma (12) (figura 1).



**Figura 1:** Origem e desenvolvimento do melanoma cutâneo maligno.  
**Fonte:** Elaboração do autor.

Isso acontece devido a mutações sofridas pelo melanócito, em decorrência de danos não reparados no DNA ou outras alterações genéticas e exposição contínua ao carcinógeno, radiação UV (13, 14).

### 1.1.2 Diagnóstico do Melanoma Cutâneo

No que diz respeito a características clínicas, histológicas e a progressão do tumor, o melanoma cutâneo tipicamente se manifesta em diferentes subtipos, melanoma disseminativo superficial, melanoma nodular, melanoma lentiginoso acral e melanoma lentigo maligno (15, 16). Melanoma disseminativo superficial começa com fase intraepidérmica de crescimento horizontal ou radial com disseminação pagetóide de melanócitos malignos claros ao longo da epiderme (10). O melanoma nodular é exofítico marrom-preto, muitas vezes erodido ou sangramento tumoral, caracterizado pela agressividade do crescimento vertical (10). Lentigo maligna é um melanoma de crescimento lento *in situ*, geralmente em áreas expostas aos raios UV (17). Melanomas lentiginosos acral, mede de 2 a 3 cm é multifocal com discrepâncias entre as margens clinicamente e histopatológica (18, 19). Em sua fase intraepidérmica inicial, ocorre pigmentação irregular e mal circunscrita com posterior crescimento invasivo. Em sua

fase intraepidérmica inicial, ocorre pigmentação irregular e mal circunscrita com posterior crescimento invasivo (20).

No diagnóstico, um melanoma tem um estágio numérico baseado em quão profundamente cresceu na pele e se espalhou para outras partes do corpo. Estágio 0, as células do melanoma ainda estão ligadas a epiderme; estágio 1, fase em que o melanoma pode chegar a 2 mm de espessura e alguns casos apresentar ulceração; estágio 2, o melanoma atinge 4 mm de espessura; estágio 3, células cancerosas atingem profundidade na pele, vasos linfáticos ou glândulas linfáticas; estágio 4, fase avançada em que o câncer se espalha para outras partes do corpo, como o pulmão, fígado, cérebro, ossos, gânglios linfáticos ou outras áreas da pele (21).

Para confirmação do diagnóstico, torna-se relevante a avaliação histopatológica considerando a espessura do tumor em mm, presença ou ausência de ulceração, número de mitoses por mm<sup>2</sup> e presença de microssatélites. Além disso, devem-se incluir informações da fase de crescimento (horizontal ou vertical), nível de invasão, presença ou ausência de regressão estabelecida, presença ou ausência de tumor denso infiltrado, embolia linfática, envolvimento vascular ou perineural. Caso necessário, as colorações imuno-histoquímicas podem ser úteis para a confirmação da natureza melanocítica do tumor (22).

### **1.1.3 Tratamento do Melanoma Cutâneo**

Após confirmação histológica, é realizada uma excisão mais extensa para permitir a retirada de possível tumor residual e diminuir as taxas de recorrência tumoral (7, 24). A quimioterapia consiste na aplicação de drogas citotóxicas e representa a forma primária de abordagem do melanoma metastático. As drogas mais utilizadas atualmente são representadas pela Dacarbazina (DTIC), Cisplatina (CDDP), Nitrosouréias (Carmustina e Lomustina) e agentes que atuam sobre os microtúbulos (Alcalóides da Vinca e Taxanes). O principal e mais ativo quimioterápico no tratamento do melanoma é representado pela Dacarbazina, agente alquilante que isoladamente proporciona taxas de resposta de 14 a 20% com duração mediana de resposta de quatro a seis meses (25, 26).

O interferon alfa 2b é uma citocina que apresenta maior controvérsia para o uso adjuvante em pacientes com melanoma. Apesar de não existir consenso, a terapia com

Interferon alfa 2b administrado em altas doses pode aumentar o tempo livre de doença bem como proporcionar um discreto aumento de sobrevida (27, 28).

O melanoma é um tumor resistente à radioterapia, sendo indicada para casos de melanoma malignos inoperáveis e pode ser utilizado de forma paliativa em casos de metástases principalmente ósseas (29).

Estudos já demonstraram que o desenvolvimento de tumores singênicos de melanoma cutâneo (B16F10) induz caquexia em camundongos, promovendo um estado catabólico provavelmente em resposta a um ambiente pró-inflamatório (30-32). No entanto, existe uma carência de informações sobre a relação do tumor de melanoma cutâneo B16F10, especialmente em relação a interação entre o tratamento do tumor e a melhora nos componentes da caquexia associada ao câncer.

## **1.2 Caquexia associada ao câncer**

### **1.2.1 Progressão tumoral, síndrome paraneoplásica e caquexia associada ao câncer**

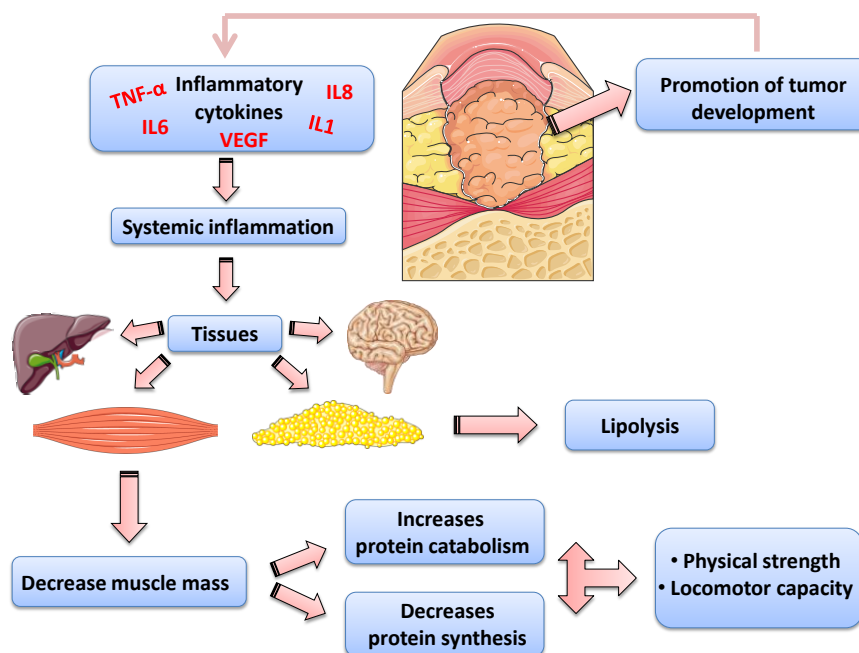
As inúmeras alterações moleculares ocorridas durante a progressão do câncer tendem a dotá-lo com uma maior agressividade biológica e clínica. Durante a progressão tumoral, é percebido que células cancerosas podem expressar genes que deveriam se encontrar reprimidos e/ou inativar genes que deveriam ser regularmente expressos, gerando distúrbios em vias de sinalização moleculares diversas, com efeitos locais e sistêmicos. Com a progressão da doença neoplásica maligna, portanto, há uma tendência para a geração de células cancerosas muito proliferativas e/ou com baixa atividade apoptótica (resultando em tumores de maior dimensão clínica em um curto espaço de tempo); células cancerosas que crescem exibindo menor formação de complexos adesivos entre si e com a matriz extracelular (MEC), e adquirem mobilidade graças às modificações sofridas em seu citoesqueleto; além daquelas que se tornam capazes de promover degradação enzimática dos componentes da MEC (resultando em tumores recorrentes e com capacidade de originar focos metastáticos locais e à distância) (33-36).

A caquexia associada ao câncer é uma síndrome complexa caracterizada como síndrome multifatorial com redução progressiva de peso, anorexia, perda muscular e fraqueza (33-39). É causada principalmente por alteração morfofuncional progressiva do tecido muscular (33, 40, 41) e sua maior influência ocorre em fibras musculares esqueléticas, promovendo uma drástica hipotrofia muscular e, conseqüentemente,

debilidade generalizada, determinada pelo aumento do catabolismo proteico ou ainda pela diminuição na síntese proteica no tecido muscular (42, 43). Levando a um comprometimento progressivo da capacidade de trabalho (33).

Aproximadamente metade de todos os pacientes com câncer apresenta caquexia (44, 45). Trata-se de uma síndrome que não só provoca um impacto negativo na qualidade de vida do paciente, mas também está associada a respostas precárias à quimioterapia e à sobrevida (46, 47). A morte geralmente ocorre quando há 30% de perda de peso (48). É responsável pela morte de 22% dos pacientes com câncer (49), com a prevalência de aproximadamente 86% nas últimas 1-2 semanas de vida (50, 51).

A inflamação crônica é um dos principais causadores da caquexia, pois afeta a função de vários tecidos, como músculo esquelético, tecido adiposo, cérebro e fígado (52). Ocorre um elevado aumento de interleucinas inflamatórias durante a progressão do câncer e a inflamação sistêmica é uma característica da caquexia associada ao câncer, indicada pela produção de proteínas como resposta na fase aguda, como por exemplo, a proteína C-reativa (PCR) (53, 54). A PCR é considerada uma medida precisa da atividade das citocinas pró-inflamatórias (55) que tem sido implicada na perda de massa muscular (56). A perda de massa muscular durante o desenvolvimento do tumor pode modular significativamente a força muscular e a capacidade locomotora em portadores de tumores (57) (figura 02).



**Figura 2:** Influência da inflamação crônica no surgimento da caquexia associada ao câncer.

**Fonte:** Elaboração do autor.



A etiologia e a patogênese do CRC ainda possuem muitos aspectos a serem esclarecidos. As ocorrências de variações no fenótipo do tumor ou no genótipo dos pacientes parecem contribuir para o desenvolvimento do CRC. A participação de mediadores químicos pró-caquéticos liberados por células cancerígenas e/ou células imunes residentes e infiltrantes parece ser essencial na montagem de muitas alterações metabólicas nos órgãos-alvo (tecido muscular esquelético, tecido adiposo, cérebro, fígado e outros) durante a caquexia. Numerosos mediadores pró-caquéticos influenciam a redução dos estoques lipídicos nos tecidos adiposos, mas, principalmente, suas maiores influências ocorrem nas fibras musculares esqueléticas, que promovem a drástica hipotrofia. Conseqüentemente, uma fraqueza muscular generalizada que parece ser determinada muito mais pelo aumento do catabolismo proteico do que pela diminuição da síntese de proteínas no tecido muscular. Além disso, importantes alterações metabólicas no tecido muscular são observadas, o que promove um aumento no consumo de energia em repouso (35, 36, 52, 58).

### **1.2.2 Caquexia associada ao melanoma**

A caquexia é um achado clínico comum nos pacientes oncológicos, associada inicialmente à ação natural da doença ou, mais tardiamente, ao crescimento tumoral e presença de metástases. Assim como ocorre com os demais tipos de cânceres humanos, estudos experimentais e humanos têm demonstrado que, com a progressão do melanoma cutâneo, nota-se a ocorrência de caquexia nos pacientes com esse tipo de câncer (39-44).

No modelo experimental de desenvolvimento tumoral com uso de células de melanoma B16 inoculadas em camundongos C57BL/6 verifica-se que durante a progressão tumoral ocorrem tanto uma progressiva perda de tecido adiposo branco nos animais, quanto uma redução acentuada da musculatura esquelética estriada, caracterizando um quadro de caquexia associada ao câncer (45). Nesses modelos, a presença de um fator conhecido como inibidor da lipoproteína lípase derivada de melanoma (LPL) ou o fator inibitório de leucemia parece desempenhar um papel importante no quadro caquético nos camundongos imunocomprometidos com melanoma induzido com células imortalizadas de melanoma B16. A inibição farmacológica dessas lipases parece contribuir para a reversão do quadro de caquexia associada a esse tipo de câncer (46-48, 50).

Tem sido também observado o papel da molécula melanocortina na ocorrência do quadro caquético associado ao desenvolvimento do melanoma cutâneo induzido. Essa molécula é responsável pela ativação de neurônios hipotalâmicos com o objetivo de integrar sinais periféricos que controlam negativamente o apetite e a sede e, indiretamente, o desempenho físico dos animais. O bloqueio deste sinal resulta na normalização da ingestão de alimentos e de bebidas e uma melhora do desempenho físico. Esses dados sugerem que este sistema de sinalização mediado pela melanocortina parece desempenhar um papel importante na mediação da caquexia associada ao melanoma cutâneo (49).

### **1.2.3 Os sistemas de degradação proteolíticos intracelulares**

Proteínas intracelulares e extracelulares são renovadas em todas as nossas células/tecidos por meio de um processo contínuo de síntese, degradação e substituição. No que se refere ao fenômeno da degradação proteica (proteólise) realizada por sistemas proteolíticos intracelulares, esses apresentam ações complexas, estritamente coordenadas, que tem a missão de regular os níveis de diversas classes de proteínas, com diferentes períodos de meia-vida e ações sem, no entanto, promover alterações nos mecanismos moleculares que garantem a integridade estrutural e funcional celular. Em células eucariotas, os principais sistemas proteolíticos são: o sistema ubiquitina-proteassoma, o sistema de cascata de caspases, o sistema de proteases lisossomais (catepsinas), as calpaínas cálcio-dependentes e o sistema autofágico (51-55).

### **1.2.5 Diagnóstico da caquexia**

Clinicamente, a caquexia associada ao câncer apresenta-se como um processo contínuo composto por três estágios: a *pré-caquexia*, a *caquexia*, e a *caquexia refratária*. Contudo, nem todos os pacientes passam por todo esse espectro. Na pré-caquexia, sinais clínicos e metabólicos precoces (por exemplo, anorexia e intolerância à glicose) podem preceder a substancial perda de peso (PP) involuntária ( $\leq 5\%$  do PP regular do indivíduo). O risco de progressão varia e depende de fatores como o tipo de câncer e de seu estadiamento, a presença de inflamação sistêmica, a baixa ingestão de alimentos e a falta de resposta à terapia antineoplásica. Os pacientes que apresentam PP  $> 5\%$  nos últimos 6 meses, ou um Índice de Massa Corporal (IMC) inferior a  $20 \text{ kg/m}^2$

são considerados caquéticos. A caquexia refratária ocorre em indivíduos com câncer com estadiamento avançado ou de rápida progressão e que não responde à terapia antineoplásica. Nesse estágio nota-se catabolismo ativo promovido pela doença neoplásica e não há possibilidade de recuperação da PP demonstrada pelo paciente (39, 59).

### **1.2.6 Tratamento da caquexia**

Além de ser uma causa direta da morte por câncer, a caquexia também limita as opções terapêuticas, já que os pacientes caquéticos normalmente são menos tolerantes a radioterapia e quimioterapia devido à fraqueza geral e desconforto (57, 60, 61). A melhor estratégia de gestão da caquexia associada ao câncer é tratamento do câncer subjacente, pois isso reverterá a síndrome de caquexia. Infelizmente, esta continua sendo uma conquista pouco frequente com cânceres avançados. Uma segunda opção poderia ser contrabalançar a perda de peso aumentando a ingestão nutricional, mas como na maioria dos pacientes caquéticos a anorexia é apenas uma parte do problema, a nutrição como terapia não é capaz de reverter completamente o desgaste estabelecido (62).

O tratamento adequado deve incluir medicamentos que abordem as seguintes condições: estado inflamatório, distúrbio nutricional, desarranjos metabólicos, defeitos imunológicos, baixa qualidade de vida e, fadiga (63). Assim, o tratamento para tem como desfechos variáveis, que foram recentemente identificadas como chave na caquexia: aumento na massa corporal magra e atividade funcional (força muscular e atividades locomotoras); diminuição do gasto energético de repouso; e melhora da fadiga (33).

Os agentes antineoplásicos regulares têm capacidade de tratar o câncer, porém em alguns casos pioram a caquexia. Daí a importância da realização estudos através do desenvolvimento de agentes de tratamento com capacidade de afetar a progressão do câncer, bem como melhorar a qualidade de vida do paciente, nesse contexto são apresentadas algumas drogas candidatas a esse fim.

O sorafenibe apresenta um efeito anticancerígeno no tratamento de tumores sólidos, além de aumentar melhora na sobrevida de pacientes com câncer (64). A curcumina é um polifenol, vulgarmente conhecida como açafrão, tem sido usada

extensivamente na medicina, por ser não tóxica e possuir uma variedade de propriedades terapêuticas, incluindo atividade antioxidante, anti-inflamatória, anticancerígeno (65). Ponalrestat, um inibidor da redutase da aldose, ativa a atividade da lipoproteína lipase (LPL) no tecido adiposo e alivia os sintomas caquéticos induzidos pelo melanoma B16 em camundongos (66). O ácido linoléico conjugado (CLA) está atraindo interesse devido a seus efeitos na composição corporal, especificamente uma redução na massa de gordura corporal. Outros efeitos benéficos relacionados à saúde do CLA incluem propriedades anticarcinogênicas (67). Dentre as citadas destaca-se o resveratrol.

### 1.3 Resveratrol

O resveratrol é uma fitoalexina, sintetizado naturalmente na planta sob duas formas isômeras: trans-resveratrol (trans-3,5,4'-trihidroxiestilbeno) e cis-resveratrol (cis-3,5,4'-trihidroxiestilbeno) (68), porém o isômero trans-isômero é o mais estável (69). A forma (3,5,4'-tri-hidroxi-trans-estilbeno) é um composto estilbenoide e polifenólico (70), pertencente ao grupo dos flavonoides (71, 72). É produzido por mais de 70 espécies de plantas (73) através da via fenilpropanóide e é derivado do ácido *p*-oceânico, que é um intermediário formado durante a produção de lignina. É encontrado naturalmente, especialmente em amendoim, uvas e algumas bagas (70).

#### 1.3.1 Resveratrol e câncer

É amplamente estudado e apresenta diversas atividades biológicas e benefícios, o que o torna uma substância importante para uso nas indústrias farmacêutica, alimentícia e cosmética (74). Estudos *in vitro* com células de câncer, mostram ações do resveratrol na indução de apoptose (75) e na inibição da proliferação celular ao interferir no ciclo celular, a fim de prejudicar a duplicação do DNA (76). Dentre os estudos *in vivo* que foram relatados os seus numerosos efeitos biológicos e farmacológicos, incluem, efeito anti-inflamatório (77, 78), anticancerígeno (79-81), aumento na sobrevivência de portadores de câncer (81) efeito antioxidante (82), efeito protetor - anti catabólico do músculo (83-86), hepatoprotetor (87, 88) e cardioprotetor (89, 90).

O resveratrol pode alterar o ciclo celular e a maquinaria apoptótica (91), atuando como um agente antiproliferativo de alguns tipos de tumores (92). Vários estudos têm mostrado que isso acontece devido ao fato de inibir a migração de células de câncer de

EMT associados e a invasão através da inibição da via de sinalização de PI-3K/ Akt/ NF- $\kappa$ B, inibição de TGF- $\beta$ 1 e a inibição da sinalização da via hedgehog (93). Induz a apoptose de um modo dependente da p53 (94). Ou através da supressão de sinais extracelulares regulada de sinalização da cinase p53, Rb, / E2F, ciclinas e CDKs (68). Há ainda grandes evidências que o resveratrol tenha um forte efeito inibitório sobre a fosforilação do EGFR (95). Pode também ter ação na atividade da PFK, portanto, perturba o metabolismo da glicose e reduz a viabilidade em células cancerosas (96).

Estudo recentes, apontam ainda a proteína Tigar como um importante alvo de resveratrol, diminuindo a proteína independente da linhagem celular utilizada. Essa proteína regulada desencadeia uma queda nos níveis de glutathione reduzida, o que resulta em ROs, responsável pela apoptose e autofagia. Em alguns trabalhos ainda demonstra inibição de enzimas metabólicas importantes, incluindo PKM2 (97).

### 1.3.2 Estudos animais

A suplementação do resveratrol em modelos animais portadores de câncer tem demonstrado que sua eficiência depende da rota de administração, da dose, do modelo tumoral, dentre outros fatores. Dentro de um tipo de câncer específico, existe uma variabilidade entre os estudos com relação à estirpe, idade e sexo do animal utilizado (98).

Estudos mostraram que o pré-tratamento de pele de camundongos com resveratrol impediu vários efeitos induzidos por TPA, incluindo o aumento da expressão da ciclooxigenase (COX) -1, COX-2, c-myc, c-fos, c-Jun, fator de crescimento transformante- $\beta$ 1, e fator de necrose tumoral- $\alpha$  (99).

O resveratrol foi significativamente eficaz na inibição da taxa de formação na redução no número tumores cutâneos de animais induzidos por DMBA, através da indução de apoptose, caracterizado por indução da liberação de citocromo c, expressão de p53, e inibição da proteína Bcl-2 (100).

O resveratrol, inibiu a síntese de DNA, aumentou a apoptose e suprimiu novas vascularização dos tumores, quando testado em camundongos portadores de carcinoma do pulmão de Lewis, altamente metastático, reduzindo significativamente o volume e o peso do tumor e metástases de pulmonar (101).

Ao administrar o resveratrol em camundongos, portadores de tumores intestinais. O estudo ocorreu durante sete semanas, a partir da quinta semana de idade

(102). O resveratrol impediu a formação de tumores do cólon e reduziu a formação de pequenos tumores intestinais em 70%. Isso possivelmente ocorreu em função da regulação de vários genes que estão envolvidos na ativação de células imunes e na inibição do processo carcinogênico. Esses dados demonstram a complexidade dos eventos associados com a tumorigenese intestinal e isso potencializa a idéia da utilização do resveratrol como um agente quimiopreventivo no tratamento da carcinogênese.

## 2 OBJETIVOS

### 2.1 Objetivo geral

Avaliar os aspectos metodológicos, abordagens farmacológicas e parâmetros utilizados para definir caquexia associada ao melanoma cutâneo; bem como investigar o efeito do resveratrol na caquexia associada ao modelo tumoral murino singênico de melanoma cutâneo em camundongos C57Bl/6.

### 2.2 Objetivos específicos

- Avaliar os aspectos metodológicos, abordagens farmacológicas e parâmetros utilizados para definir o diagnóstico da caquexia associada ao melanoma cutâneo em modelo singênico de camundongos C57BL/6.
- Investigar o efeito do resveratrol na caquexia associada ao melanoma singênico B16F10 em modelos de camundongos C57BL/6.

### 3 PRODUTOS

3.1 Produto 1: *Anticachectic Effects of Pharmacological Agents on Mouse Models of Cutaneous Melanoma-Related Cachexia: a Systematic Review.*

3.2 Produto 2: *Resveratrol decreases low-degree chronic inflammation, inhibits body weight and skeletal muscle mass losses, decreases pro-cachectic myokines and adipokines expression, and improves cancer-related survival in C57BL/6 mice bearing syngeneic tumor.*



### 3.1 PRODUTO 1

**Title:** Anticachectic Effects of Pharmacological Agents on Mouse Models of Cutaneous Melanoma-Related Cachexia: a Systematic Review.

**Article type** Review Article

#### **Abstract**

**Aim:** Update the knowledge about the main methodological aspects, and pharmacological approaches from mouse Cutaneous Melanoma (CM)-related cachexia models. **Methods:** A systematic literature search was conducted using MESH headings and keywords in electronic databases (MEDLINE, PUBMED, EMBASE, Scopus, SciELO, Web of Science). Two reviewers independently assessed selected articles according to the PRISMA protocol. The methodological quality of clinical trial studies was performed using the Jadad scale. Effect size studies were carried. **Results:** The systematic research yielded 57 publications, seven of these met the inclusion criteria. The most common mouse CM model was established with subcutaneous inoculation of murine B16F10 melanoma cells into the back of the C57BL6 mice. The diagnosis of cachexia was mainly based on body weight monitoring. **Conclusion:** Few parameters are used to define the cachexia in mouse model. The effect of anti-inflammatory drugs in CM-related cachexia mouse model is associated with a concomitant reduction of tumor volume.

**Keyword:** cancer-related cachexia, cutaneous melanoma; mouse cancer model; mouse cutaneous melanoma-related cachexia model; therapy.

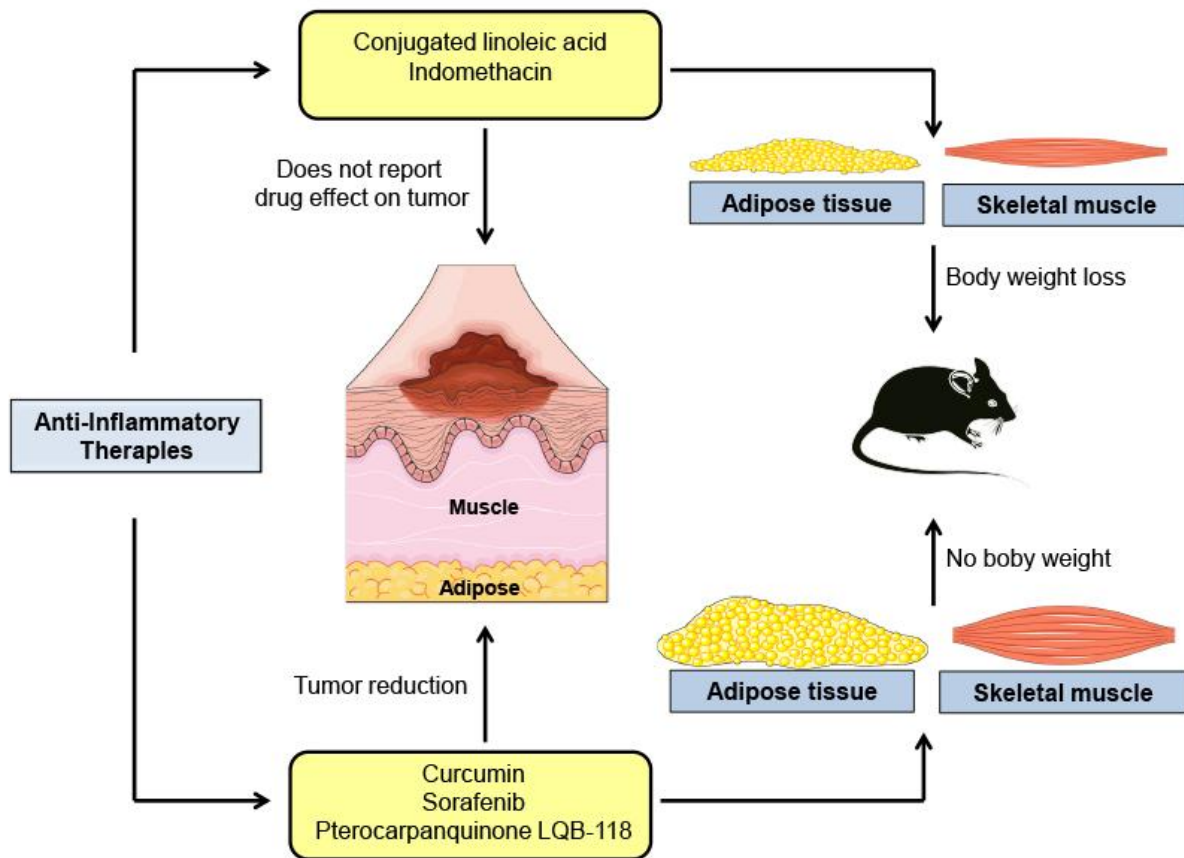
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**Graphical Abstract file:**

## **Anticachectic Effects of Pharmacological Agents on Mouse Models of Cutaneous Melanoma-Related Cachexia: a Systematic Review.**

### **1. Introduction**

Cancer-related cachexia (CRC) is defined as a multifactorial syndrome marked by a continuous loss of skeletal muscle mass (with or without loss of fat mass). CRC cannot be fully reversed by conventional nutritional supports and leads to progressive functional impairment in individuals with cancer (1). Clinically, CRC is characterized by an involuntary, progressive physical consumption that occurs mainly in those individuals who present advanced tumor staging (2). The progressive weight loss experienced by individuals with CRC is mainly due to a variable combination of involuntary reduced food intake (anorexia), presence of a low-intensity chronic systemic inflammatory state, intense protein catabolism in skeletal muscle fibers, and a negative energy balance that occurs in adipose tissues (3, 4). Although CRC is a prevalent pathological systemic condition associated with the progression of many types of cancer, it is not readily recognized, thoroughly assessed, and successfully managed. Notably, CRC management represents one of the greatest challenges to health professionals dealing with cancer patients. The great difficulty in establishing efficient treatment protocols for CRC is mostly explained by its complex pathogenesis. From the clinical point of view, CRC is independently responsible for poor outcomes to patients with cancer, such as: drastic decrease of life quality, lower tolerance and reduced response to standard antineoplastic therapies, and a shorter overall survival due to respiratory or cardiac failures (5-8).

The cutaneous melanoma (CM) is the deadliest skin cancer that originates from both genetic and epigenetic disturbances in melanocytes located on the basal layer of epidermis (2, 9, 10). The global incidence of CM is about 160.000 new cases per year, with about 50.000 deaths occurring worldwide, notably due to its early capacity to generate local and distant metastatic dissemination. Nowadays, CM is considered an important public health problem in many countries around the world (11-13). The risk of CM is linked to chronic exposure to ultraviolet light radiation A (UVA) and B (UVB), most notably in fair-skinned and red-haired individuals. Moreover, a higher susceptibility to develop CM risk is also influenced by other inheritable and

environmental factors such as socioeconomic status and previous history of heritable or acquired melanocytic skin lesions (e.g., dysplastic nevus, atypical mole syndrome, giant congenital melanocytic nevi, or even a primary melanoma) (14, 15). Despite recent advances in CM diagnosis and therapeutics, prognosis of individuals with CM remains poor, with a five-year overall survival rate for about 20% for patients that presented distant metastases at the time of diagnosis (16). Typically, CM is characterized by its highly aggressive clinical and biological behavior, especially due to the early occurrence of dissemination of metastatic cancer cells (10, 17, 18). However, the occurrence of CRC in individuals with advanced CM, as occurs for other human solid tumors at advanced stages, appears to contribute to its lethality (19-21). Notably, only a few human studies have explored the occurrence of CRC in individuals with CM and the clinical consequences of this paraneoplastic syndrome in these individuals.

In researching human cancer, murine models allow for better understanding of the malignancy without the added risk of harming an actual human being. Mouse CM models have been used in preclinical studies in order to better uncover characteristics of tumor biology, especially the molecular mechanisms responsible for determining the clinical behavior of CM (22). Remarkably, there is a paucity of information regarding diagnosis, pathogenesis, therapeutic approaches, and outcomes related to CRC from murine melanoma models (21, 23, 24). Although presenting limitations that typically occur in study designs with animal models, they can potentially contribute to a better understanding about cachexia that occurs with MC progression. Additionally, they offer the advantage of facilitating the development of new pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapeutic approaches for CRC treatment. However, the main findings from studies points to different, and sometimes controversial, results regarding the treatment effectiveness on CRC. This is probably due to the different types of therapies adopted, the treatment period, the drug administration route, among other factors (25-27).

In this systematic review study, we aimed to update the knowledge about the main findings related to diagnosis, methodological aspects, and pharmacological approaches from mouse CM-related cachexia models.

## 2. Methods

The present study is a systematic literature review that investigated anticachectic pharmacological approaches performed in murine CM-related cachexia models. Main steps were conducted according to the methodology established by the *Preferred Reporting Items in Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses* (28).

### 2.1 Resources

Data collection occurred from February, 2017 to March, 2018 and the papers, written in the English language exclusively, were retrieved by online search on databases related to *International Literature on Health Sciences* (MEDLINE) through online database PubMed, *Scientific Electronic Library Online* (SciELO), bibliographic database containing abstracts and citations of academic articles (Scopus), and ISI Web of Knowledge. Moreover, a few studies identified in others resources (e.g. list of references, and gray literature, as Google Scholar) were also evaluated if they reached potential eligibility.

### 2.3 Search strategy

A preliminary exploratory search was conducted to track the descriptors to be used in the survey of thematic references in the structured vocabulary of the *Descriptors in Health Sciences* (DeCS) (<http://decs.bvs.br/>) using the tool "Descriptor accurate" and in *Medical Subject Headings* (MeSH) by searching them in the keywords, title and/or summary of the studies. Search terms used were "melanoma" OR "experimental melanoma" AND "pharmacological approach" OR "therapeutic" OR "treatment" OR "drug" AND "cachexia" OR "muscle wasting disorder". Additional resources were used according to the database availability (Booleans AND, OR, Title/Abstract). The purpose of this procedure was not only to filter the results, but also to cross the main terms in order to obtain the maximum number of possible studies. The author reviewers of this present study attempted to identify all terms and their synonyms in the titles or abstracts of the papers for relevance to the defined review question. If it was not clear from the abstract whether the paper might contain relevant data, the full paper was assessed.

#### 2.4 Eligibility criteria

Original randomized controlled trials (RCT) that investigated any pharmacological approaches for treatment of mouse CM-related cachexia were considered as potential papers to be included in this study. Duplicated papers found on the databases or reference lists were excluded.

#### 2.5 Study selection

We screened all retrieved records and included studies in which any pharmacological approach for treatment of mouse CM-related cachexia models (syngeneic and genetically engineered mouse cancer-related cachexia models) was performed. Two reviewers (Cardoso-Filho, O and Souza, LR) performed the first screening of titles and abstracts to select eligible studies, and then, independently evaluated the records. Three steps were followed: 1) title reading; 2) abstract reading; 3) full text reading. In the first step, we selected the studies that presented at least two terms (or synonyms) identified in the MeSH, as possible searched. In the second step, only papers with enough data regarding the performed intervention (anticachectic pharmacological approach) and analyzed outcomes (experimental cancer-related cachexia) were selected. In the final step, during full text reading, the main results were considered. Two articles studied met all inclusion criteria from the reading of the abstract, although the full articles were not available in the databases or when requested by email, being nevertheless included in the present review for presenting important information. However, they are not covered in all analyzes due to the absence of complete information.

We excluded studies that investigated MC mouse models when induction occurred with cancer cell lines of human CM. A flowchart showing the numbers of papers identified and included or excluded at each stage is presented in [Figure 1](#).

#### 2.6 Data extraction

The following information from studies was extracted: data presenting direct association with therapies to prevent or treat CM, as well as a relation with the development of cachexia during experimental CM progression. A standardized form

was used to extract data related to: melanoma cell line (origin; primary or immortalized melanoma cell; quantity used for tumor induction), mouse CM model (age and gender of mice; sample size; presence of control group; local of CM cell inoculation, post-therapeutic clinical findings, survival of mice), and anticachectic drug (type; chemical categorization; route of administration; dose and period of treatment) were included in this systematic review. When data were unclear, there was a further meeting with the three reviewers to establish a consensus.

### 2.7 Risk of bias in individual studies

The risk of bias in individual studies was evaluated according to their quality. For this purpose, we used Jadad scale to classify methodological quality of each study (29). Two reviewers were invited to conduct this procedure. In case of divergence in the assessments, a third reviewer participated of the decision. Any disagreement was discussed and resolved by consensus. Notably, one of the issues was the Jaddad scale not applying to animal studies, we then made an adaptation of the scale, defining the higher score as four. A study was considered of poor quality if it received two points or less after its evaluation, while a score greater than two was considered high quality. In this present review, classification criteria were adapted considering some cut-off points as follows: level A = 4 points; level B = 3-2 points; level C  $\leq$  2 points. Studies with scores lower than three points were considered by referred scale as “poor quality”. The “A” score means “high quality” and “B” and “C” scores mean “low quality” of the study. Moreover, a funnel plot was applied to observe any publication bias of selected studies.

### 2.8 Data synthesis and analysis

Effect size was calculated for study relation according to Hopkins et al. criteria (30). Effect size was carried out to evaluate the effect of experimental cancer-related cachexia treatment, especially the effects on body weight and animal gastrocnemius skeletal muscle weight. The experiments included in the analysis had descriptions of 1) body weight of control and experimental group; 2) gastrocnemius muscle weight of control and experimental groups; 3) sample size, mean, and standard deviation of each group and statistical comparison (30). Effect size was used to classify the results as

follows: trivial ( $< 0.2$ ), small ( $\geq 0.2 - < 0.6$ ), moderate ( $\geq 0.6 - < 1.2$ ), large ( $\geq 1.2 - < 2$ ), very large ( $\geq 2 - < 4$ ), almost perfect ( $= 4$ ), and perfect ( $> 4$ ).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1 Characteristics and methodological quality of selected studies

The first step was to screen the titles and abstracts and remove duplicated studies. Bibliographic search resulted in 57 papers identified in the databases. Among them, eight (14.03%) studies were excluded as they were in duplicates, 42 (73.68%) studies did not meet the inclusion criteria, in 28 (49.12%) there were no drug-based treatments, nine (15.78%) did not investigate the influence of the antitumor treatment on cachexia and five (8.77%) of the studies did not use drugs. In this sense, seven papers were fully analyzed and included in the present review (Figure 1), two of which were analyzed based on the abstract information (Kawamura et al., 1999a and Kawamura et al., 1999b).

The Cohen k value for inter-reviewers agreement was 0.82, which is considered an excellent value.

All the selected studies showed quality scores above two, evidencing a good quality of these studies included in the systematic review. The selected studies included publications from 1999 to 2016.

#### 3.2 Characterization of mouse CM-related cachexia model

Regarding the experimental design, in the studies included for evaluation, the use of  $5 \times 10^5$  cells B16F10 (80.0%), with subcutaneous inoculation (71.4%) close to back was the most usual. Animal strain used in all the studies was C57BL/6 females (100%) (Table 1). Daily gavage and inclusion in the diet were the most used therapies for melanoma. Treatment period of cutaneous melanoma tumors ranged from 10 to 17 days (Table 2).



### 3.3 Characterization of mouse CM-related cachexia model and pharmacological therapies

The anticachectic drugs used in the selected studies were ponalrestat ( $C_{17}H_{12}BrFN_2O_3$ , molecular weight: 391.196 g/mol), conjugated linoleic acid ( $C_{18}H_{32}O_2$ , molecular weight: 280.452 g/mol), bezafibrate ( $C_{19}H_{20}ClNO_4$ , molecular weight: 361.822 g/mol) and ibrolipim ( $C_{19}H_{20}BrN_2O_4P$ , molecular weight: 451.257 g/mol), pterocarpanquinone ( $C_{19}H_{12}O_4$ , molecular weight: 304.301 g/mol), indomethacin ( $C_{19}H_{16}ClNO_4$ , molecular weight: 357.79 g/mol), curcumin ( $C_{21}H_{20}O_6$ , molecular weight: 368.379 g/mol) and sorafenib ( $C_{21}H_{16}ClF_3N_4O_3$ , molecular weight: 464.829 g/mol).

Ponalrestat is an aldose reductase inhibitor. Linoleic acid is an acid with anti-inflammatory action. Bezafibrate is an antilipemic agent and anti-inflammatory. Ibrolipim is a lipoprotein lipase (LPL) activator with antihyperlipidemic activity. Pterocarpanquinone is an antineoplastic agent and exhibits an anti-inflammatory effect. Indomethacin is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that acts as a cyclooxygenase inhibitor. Curcumin is a yellow-orange pigment that possesses anti-inflammatory properties. Sorafenib is a synthetic compound that blocks tumor angiogenesis and has anti-inflammatory properties.

### 3.4 Diagnosis of mouse CM-related cachexia

In 71.4% of the studies, the variation of the body weight was considered to define CRC promoted by mouse CM (Table 2). However, in none of these studies the amount or percentage of weight loss was mentioned in order to define the diagnosis of CRC. Moreover, it was not established a mean time to CRC diagnosis. Only the study conducted by Salustiano et al., 2016 included the monitoring of animal body weight during the treatment period. The other authors considered as cachectic those CM animals that presented lower body weight in comparison to the control animals without tumor. In these cases, the influence of treatment on body weight was evaluated only in the end of the experiment. In 83% of the selected studies, decrease of certain skeletal muscles (soleus, tibial, plantaris and gastrocnemius muscles) mass or white adipose tissue (epididymal adipose, carcass and total lipid) were parameters associated to body weight loss and were used for CRC diagnosis. Only the studies of Kawamura et al.

1999 did not evaluate body weight, and the parameters adipose tissue weight and lipid dosage were evaluated for CRC diagnosis. The gastrocnemius muscle mass represented the second most used parameter (57.1% of the studies) for CRC diagnosis.

### 3.5 Anticachectic effects of the investigated drugs

All antitumor treatments used in the studies of our systematic review were through drugs with anti-inflammatory properties. Treatments with curcumin (Beckett et al., 2008), sorafenib (Toledo et al., 2014) and pterocarpanquinone (Salustiano et al., 2016) showed antineoplastic effects, once they promoted decreased tumor volume. In parallel, these drugs also did not induce body weight loss, despite having promoted loss of muscle mass after sorafenib and curcumin treatments (Table 2). Interestingly, the treatment with sorafenib increased white adipose tissue mass, improved physical performance of animals and increased food consumption. Only in the Salustiano et al., 2016 study, the treatment effect on survival of the animals was investigated, and it was noticed that the pterocarpanquinone treatment did not promote increase survivability.

Ponalrestat (Kawamura et al, 1999a) administration showed an effect considered as partial because it promoted a positive effect on locomotor restoration of mice with CRC and recuperation of body adipose tissue (Table 2). Similarly, the pharmacological association of bezafibrate and ibrolipim (Kawamura et al, 1999b) also attenuated adipose weight loss. On the other hand, conjugated linoleic acid (McCarthy & Graves, 2006) and indomethacin (Graves et al, 2006) did not preserve muscle mass or promote body weight loss. In all of these studies, no antitumor effect was reported due to the pharmacological agent treatments.

### 3.6 Effect of treatment on body weight and muscle mass

A total of five and four studies met the criteria for the implementation of the effect analysis of the treatment on body weight and muscle mass, respectively. Effect size analysis related to body weight monitored during the antitumor treatment period showed that treatment effects were positively classified in 80% of the studies ([Figure 2A](#)). Treatment effect on body weight was classified as perfect and very large after pterocarpanquinone treatment. In this study, the treatment performed with pterocarpanquinone LQB-118 reversed cachexia considerably. A limitation of this

research relies on the fact that it evaluated only the body weight to define cachexia. Considering the sorafenib treatment, it was verified that it did not promote body weight loss (large effect on size) but caused reduction of muscle mass although the effect size on muscle mass has been considered large (Figure 2B). The therapy with curcumin preserved body weight (large effect size), but with impaired gastrocnemius muscle mass, whose classification of effect size was trivial. Effect size obtained with conjugated linoleic acid treatment on skeletal muscle mass and body weight of mice was small, and there was loss of body weight and skeletal muscle mass. The use of indomethacin showed the lowest effect size on body weight and gastrocnemius muscle mass. The negative effect noted for body weight measurement showed that the therapy with indomethacin promoted an opposite effect.

#### **4. Discussion**

CRC is considered a paraneoplastic syndrome in which an involuntary body weight loss occurs due to progressive skeletal muscle wasting, with or without adipose tissue loss. This pathological catabolic systemic condition is consequence of molecular disturbances that affect metabolic molecular pathways in individuals with cancer. Clinically, cachexia represents an independent prognostic factor in these individuals and is one important factor that causes resistance to antineoplastic therapies (32-35). The murine models for induction of cachexia provoked by melanoma and the parameters for the definition of the cachectic framework are highly variable throughout the literature. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first systematic review that assembled general information about mouse CM-related cachexia models, highlighting parameters used to diagnose the mouse model for CM-related cachexia. This study is also the first description of the antineoplastic and anticachectic effects obtained with different drug treatments.

According to findings in this study, the most common mouse MC model was established with subcutaneous inoculation of murine B16F10 melanoma cells between scapulae of the C57BL6 mice. Mouse CM-related cachexia seems to occur as a consequence of tumor progression. According to our findings, the diagnosis of cachexia was mainly based on body weight monitoring (mean loss weight between groups), followed by measurement of the gastrocnemius muscle and visceral adipose tissue. Therapeutic approaches against CM-related cachexia in mouse models were performed

with anti-inflammatory drugs exclusively. Treatments that showed anticachectic effects were those that also reduced the mass and tumor volume concomitantly (Figure 3).

Oral administration with gavage is the most frequent drug administration route. It is also the least invasive administration form of the drug and the most clinically relevant to test the efficacy of potential drugs for the treatment of human diseases, since orally administered drugs provide a broad systemic biodistribution (31).

The most frequent syngeneic mouse MC-related cachexia model is performed with tumor induction through subcutaneous inoculation of the B16 cell lines (subclones F1 and F10) in C57BL/6 (36-42). Usually, after three days post-inoculation of murine melanoma cells, the spontaneous formation of the tumor occurs (43). These syngeneic mouse models best suit CRC studies since they preserve many of the immunological aspects that usually occur during CM progression (44). Typically, CRC progression is associated with an onset of low-grade, systemic chronic inflammatory state which seems to contribute to the occurrence of disturbed catabolic conditions in a number of target tissues, most notably the striated skeletal muscle (45). The maintenance of an immune response to cancer cells is pivotal to verify immunological effects obtained with different anticancer therapies in preclinical studies using animal models (46).

The subcutaneous inoculation of murine melanoma cells between scapulae represent the most used anatomical site for experimental CM induction. That anatomic region frequently makes the experimental CM easier to monitor (47). In the current study, we identified that parameters used for CRC diagnosis are rather variable in the published studies. However, in general, the studies herein selected showed that mouse CM model seems to be adequate to investigate the CRC phenomenon. According to selected studies, parameters used to CRC diagnosis in mouse CM model were loss of body weight (71.4%) and gastrocnemius muscle mass (57.1%). A combination between epididymal adipose tissue mass and total and carcass lipid dosage was evaluated in 28.5% of studies. CRC diagnosis is commonly based on loss of body weight, sarcopenia, and decrease of white adipose tissue storages assessed by simple devices, such as analytical balance and metric tape. Overall, the measurements obtained with these devices have been considered reliable. The gold standard to evaluate morpho functional alterations in internal organs (area, volume, and changes in the composition of the original tissue), which are paramount for studies with CRC, is reached with the use of magnetic resonance and computerized tomography imaging devices (48, 49). However, especially for those research centers that do not have sophisticated equipment

for the analysis of weight and volume of internal organs (e.g., the evaluation of skeletal muscle tissues in experimental CRC studies), the combination of more than one evaluation parameter for CRC diagnosis seems to be the most adequate for establishing a reliable diagnosis of the syndrome. Interestingly, about 40-60% of individuals with cancer may present an overweight condition combined with loss of muscle mass (50, 51). However, there is no definition in the published work of the mean time to diagnose cachexia or clinical aspects observed in treated and untreated cachectic animals.

Fat tissue wasting is diagnosed on early stages of CRC and seems to precede the skeletal muscle loss in individuals with cancer (52). Notably, the severity of fat loss in individuals with cancer cannot be attributable to food restriction alone. Although parenteral nutrition may favor the reestablishment of adipose tissue and therefore the gain of body weight, with improvement of the life quality and survival outcomes in individuals with cancer, it does not reverse CRC (53). Plasma total lipid dosage is another indicator parameter that was identified for CRC diagnosis in the studies herein selected. However, in our point of view, this parameter should be used in conjunction with other parameters, such as loss of body weight and muscle mass. It has been evidenced that increased lipid mobilization has a central role in adipose tissue wasting during CRC, while inhibition of adipocyte development and lipid deposition may also contribute (54). Enhanced lipolysis is regulated by adipose triglyceride lipase and hormone-sensitive lipase, once both promote triacylglycerol degradation (55). Moreover, local and systemic lipolysis during CRC is also stimulated by zinc- $\alpha$ 2-glycoprotein (ZAG) adipokine that is expressed and secreted by adipocytes and cancer cells (56).

Although certain signs and symptoms related to experimental CRC are relevant to being observed and followed, such as occurrence of fatigue, pain, anorexia, depression, low physical performance (measurement of muscle strength), and biochemical abnormalities (plasma levels of albumin and hemoglobin), they were not considered in the studies selected in this present review (57, 58).

Only one study herein selected did not perform oral administration (gavage or mixing into the diet) as delivery route to anti-inflammatory drugs used for mouse CM-related cachexia models. Findings from these studies showed that drugs exhibited both antineoplastic and anticachectic effects. In the studies where no drug effect was observed on tumor reduction, no effect on CRC was noted. Although etiology of CRC has not been fully unveiled, individuals with CRC typically maintain an ongoing low-

grade systemic chronic inflammatory state (59). Therapeutic interventions using nonselective anti-inflammatory agents have potential to exert antitumor effects and also ameliorate CRC (60). Apparently, the efficiency of the anti-inflammatory drug treatments for mouse MC-related cachexia models also primarily depended on the antitumor effects of these drugs (57, 61). Some studies have shown that therapies with antitumor properties, after promoting the decrease in the development of the tumor, consequently trigger an anti-cachexia effect (62, 63). As previously mentioned, mouse cancer models that preserve or simulate both humoral and cellular immune response characteristics that occur during molecular and cellular interaction between host and cancer cells are fundamental to uncover the aspects of tumor biology. Hence, it is also possible to optimally develop efficacious anticancer therapies in preclinical research (64).

The analysis of effect size shows that body weight is the parameter that has the greatest influence over the treatment, being consistent with the statistical difference presented throughout the studies. The use of the effect size approach adds information to the statistical significance concept once it allows for measurement of the real significance aggregated by the intervention, through the observed effect description, which is independent of a possible mistaken effect generated in function of the sample size (65, 66).

In conclusion, our review showed that the most common mouse CM model for CRC investigation is represented by subcutaneous inoculation of B16F10 cells into C57BL/6 animals. CRC in that mouse cancer model is predominantly defined by monitoring the animal body weight, and secondarily by measuring skeletal muscle mass and epididymis adipose tissue mass. Moreover, it was noted from studies herein selected that anticachectic effect promoted by the antiinflammatory drugs was more efficient when the reduction of tumor volume occurred concomitantly. According to the effect size analysis, the anti-cachectic effect of drugs is better perceived when the parameter loss of body weight is used to experimental CRC diagnosis. Signals and symptoms-related to cachexia, physical performance status, imaging of internal target organs, and molecular disturbance investigations are poorly explored or nonexistent in the mouse CM-related cachexia studies. Despite its unquestionable relevance to the poorer outcome in individuals with late stage of cancer, including CM, CRC is still underdiagnosed and seldom treated. Our findings highlight a need of future studies that

delineate the contribution of mouse CM-related cachexia model for CM treatment in human beings.

### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests that could influence the impartiality of the research reported.

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## LEGEND OF FIGURES

**Figure 1.** Flowchart containing information about the full procedures from screening to analysis of studies, according to recommendations of the PRISMA methodology (LIBERATI, 2009).

**Figure 2.** Effect size according to parameters considered to diagnosis of cancer-related cachexia in mouse tumor model. A) Effect size of treatment on body weight as a parameter to monitoring of cancer-related cachexia. B) Effect size of treatment on gastrocnemius muscle mass to monitoring of cancer-related cachexia. Classification of effect size: trivial ( $< 0.2$ ), small ( $\geq 0.2 - < 0.6$ ), moderate ( $\geq 0.6 - < 1.2$ ), large ( $\geq 1.2 - < 2$ ), very large ( $\geq 2 - < 4$ ), almost perfect ( $= 4$ ), and perfect ( $> 4$ ) (Hopkins, 2009).

**Figure 3:** Action of anti-inflammatory drugs in melanoma-related cachexia, with focus on tumor and the consumption of components that form the adipose tissue and muscular tissue (Adapted from Servier Medical Art, [www.servier.com](http://www.servier.com)).

## FIGURES

Figure 1.

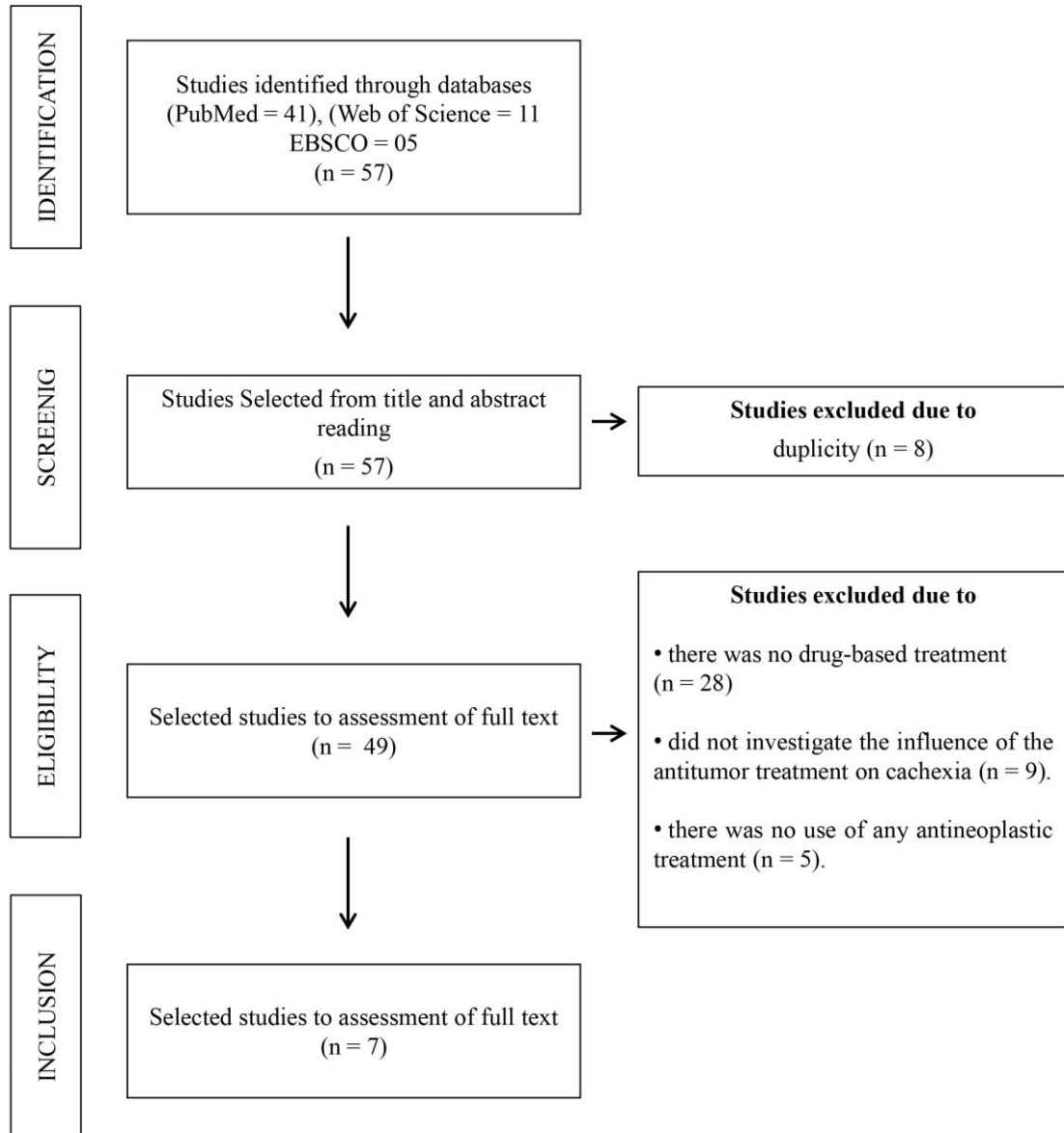


Figure 2.

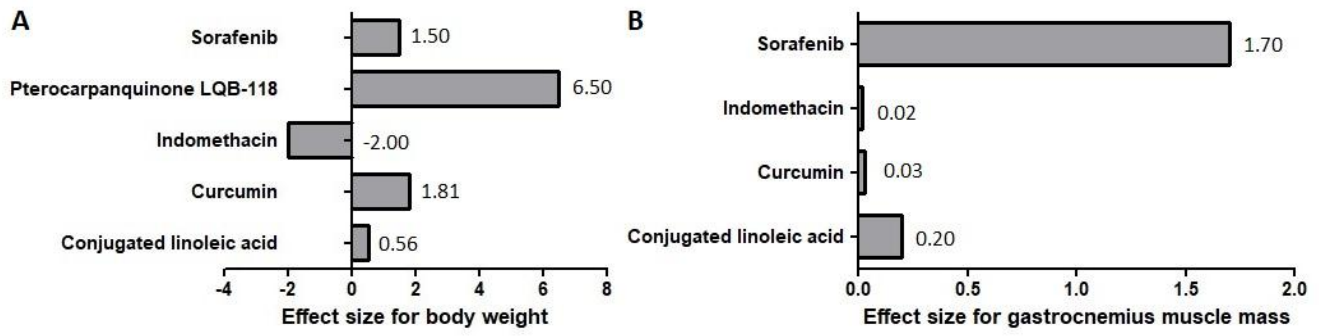
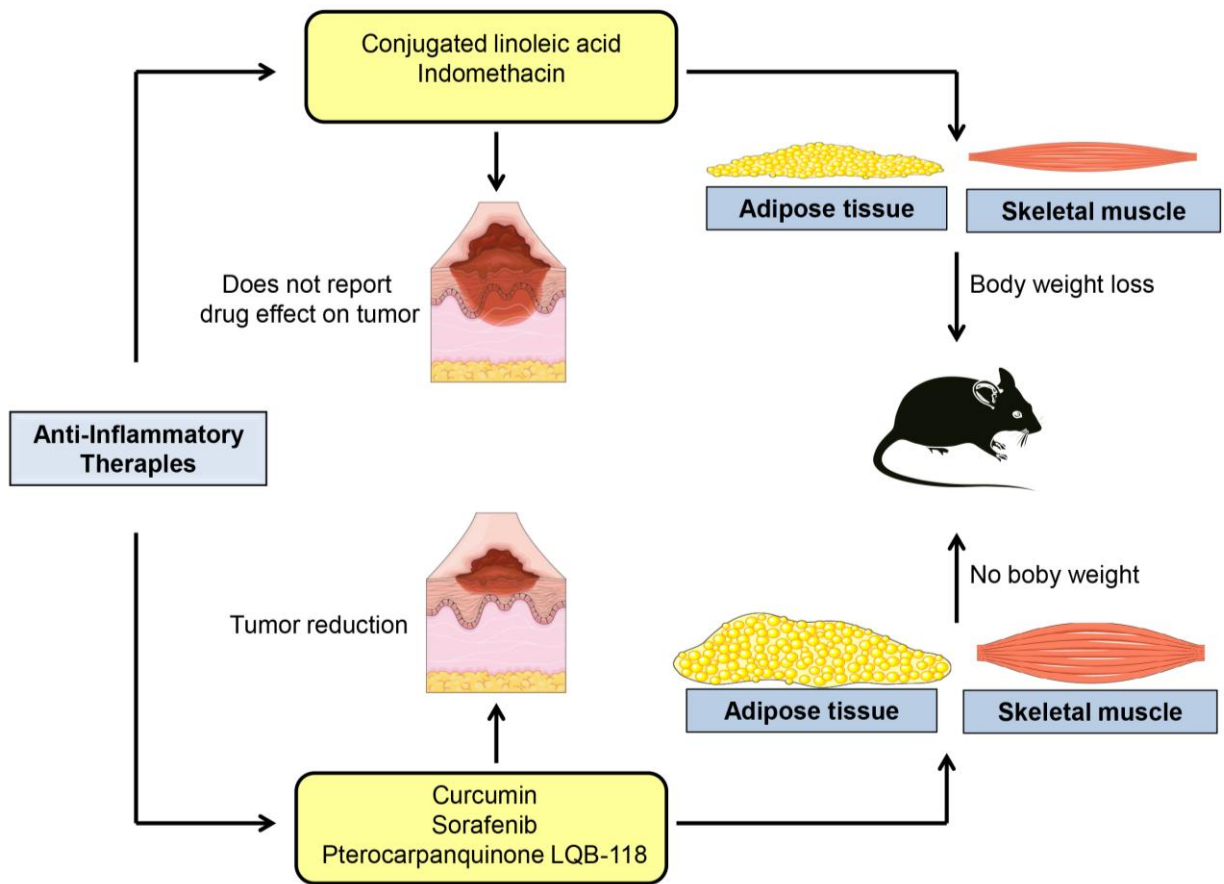


Figure 3.





## TABLES

**Table 1.** Characteristics cutaneous melanoma cells and mouse models of cutaneous melanoma-related cachexia found in the studies included in this review.

Author/Year	CM cell type	Quantity of inoculated murine CM cells	Mouse/Gender/(n)	Control group	Anatomical site of CM cells inoculation
Kawamura et al., 1999a	B16F10	Not reported	Not reported	Yes	Intraperitoneal
Kawamura et al., 1999b	B16F10	Not reported	Not reported	Yes	Intraperitoneal
McCarthy & Graves, 2006	B16F10	$5 \times 10^5$	C57BL/6 – Female ( $n_T = 24$ ; $n = 6$ /group)	Yes	Subcutaneous between the Scapulae
Graves et al., 2006	B16F10	$5 \times 10^5$	C57BL/6 – Female ( $n_T = 30$ ; $n = 6$ /group)	Yes	Subcutaneous between the scapulae
Beckett et al., 2008	B16F10	$5 \times 10^5$	C57BL/6 – Female ( $n_T = 30$ ; $n_{NTu} = 6$ /group; $n_{Tu} = 9$ /group)	Yes	Subcutaneous between the scapulae
Toledo et al., 2014	B16F10	$5 \times 10^5$	C57BL/6 – Female ( $n_T = 22$ ; $n_{NTu} = 6$ /group; $n_{Tu} = 8$ /group)	Yes	Subcutaneous
Salustiano et al., 2016	B16F10	$1 \times 10^5$	C57BL/6 – Female ( $n_T = 30$ ; $n = 10$ /group)	Yes	Subcutaneous between the scapulae

\*  $n_T$  = Total sample; number;  $n_{NTu}$  = Sample number of Non-Tumor groups;  $n_{Tu}$  = Sample number of Tumor groups

**Table 2.** Characteristics of anti-cachectic drugs and treatments of the murine CM-related cachexia model found in studies included in this review.

Author, Year	Pharmacological agent	Classification of pharmacological agent	Treatment frequency and route of administration	Drug effects in the tumor	Diagnosis of CRC	Main effects of treatment on CRC
Kawamura et al., 1999a	Ponalrestat	Aldose reductase inhibitor Anti-inflammatory	Not reported	Not reported	Weight of epididymal adipose, carcass and total lipid, dosage of triglycerides and non-esterified fatty acids, locomotor activity.	It attenuated the adipose weight loss and improved locomotor activity. It increased levels of triglycerides and non-esterified fatty acids.
Kawamura et al., 1999b	Bezafibrate and Ibrolipim (NO-1886)	Anti-lipemic agent Anti-inflammatory	Not reported	Not reported	Weight of epididymal adipose, carcass and total lipid, dosage of triglycerides and non-esterified fatty acids.	It attenuated the adipose weight loss. It increased levels of triglycerides and non-esterified fatty acids.
McCarthy & Graves, 2006	Conjugated linoleic acid	Anti-inflammatory	17 days 0.5% drug mixed in the diet	Not reported	Body weight, and weight of gastrocnemius muscles.	It did not show preservation of muscle mass. Body weight loss.
Graves et al., 2006	Indomethacin	Anti-inflammatory	17 days 5 mg/kg/day 1 mg/kg/day Mixed in the diet	Not reported	Body weight, and gastrocnemius muscle weight.	Reduced muscle mass. Body weight loss.
Beckett et al., 2008	Curcumin	Antioxidant Anti-inflammatory	17 days 150 mg/kg/day Mixed in the diet	Decreased tumor	Body weight, and weight of soleus, plantaris and gastrocnemius muscles.	There was not body weight loss; Skeletal muscle mass loss.
Toledo et al., 2014	Sorafenib	Antineoplastic Anti-inflammatory	14 days 90 mg/kg/day Gavage	Decreased tumor	Body weight, and weight of the gastrocnemius and tibial muscles, White adipose tissue weight, Total physical activity, Food consumption.	There was not body weight loss. Mass muscle were reduced. Increased white adipose tissue. Improvement in total physical activity. Increased food consumption.
Salustiano et al., 2016	Pterocarpanquinone LQB-118	Antineoplastic Anti-inflammatory	10 days 0.36 mg/kg/day Intraperitoneal	Decreases tumor	Body weight.	There was not body weight loss.

**Table 3.** Quality of evidence (adapted Jadad Scale).

Author (year)	Score	Evidence Level
Kawamura et al., 1999a	2	B
McCarthy & Graves, 2006	3	B
Kawamura et al., 1999b	2	B
Salustiano et al., 2016	4	A
Graves et al., 2006	3	B
Beckett et al., 2008	2	B
Toledo et al., 2014	4	A

A = 4 points; B = 2 - 3 points; C < 2 points.

### 3.2 PRODUTO 2

**Resveratrol decreases low-degree chronic inflammation, inhibits body weight and skeletal muscle mass losses, decreases pro-cachectic myokines and adipokines expression, and improves cancer-related survival in C57BL/6 mice bearing syngeneic tumor**

**Running-title:** Anti-cachectic effects of resveratrol in mouse cancer-related cachexia model.

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## Abstract

**Background** During tumor progression, might occur cancer-related cachexia (CRC), a paraneoplastic syndrome characterized as progressive, systemic physical consumption state of individual with cancer. Trans-resveratrol (3,4,5-trans-trihydroxystilbene, Resv) is a naturally occurring polyphenol. It has been evidenced modulatory roles of Resv on disturbed molecular pathways related to cancer progression. But, the influence of Resv on adipose and skeletal muscle tissues during CRC is still inconclusive.

**Aim** We investigated the effects of Resv on plasma inflammatory biomarker, skeletal muscle (SM), white adipose tissues (WAT), and survival from C57BL/6 mice bearing syngeneic cutaneous-melanoma (CM) model.

**Material and Methods** Murine B16F10 cells were injected into flank of the fifty-eight female C57BL/6 mice in order to establish a syngeneic mouse CM-related cachexia model. CRC diagnosis was individually established for each animal using as parameter weight loss  $\geq 5\%$ . Resv was administered in concentrations of 200 and 400mg/Kg body weight using oral gavage in both control and experimental mice. The consumption of water and food, body weight, and tumor size were daily measured. Albumin and C-reactive protein (CRP) serum levels were measured by enzyme immunoassays. SM strength, volume, and mass were assessed using a grip strength meter, a high-frequency ultrasound device, and an analytical balance, respectively. SM, WAT, and BAT samples were collected and submitted to morphometric and gene expression analysis. Control and experimental mice were submitted to cancer-related survival (CRS) analysis.

**Results** Mice treated with Resv significantly promoted a delayed in CRC occurrence, promoted gain of body weight, and improved survival of mice with CRC ( $p = 0.038$ ,  $p = 0.001$ , and  $p = 0.040$ , respectively). In SM of mice, Resv administration increased SMT weight (Resv200mg/kg  $p < 0.05$  e Resv400mg/kg,  $p < 0.001$ ) and volume (Resv200mg/kg,  $p < 0.01$  e Resv400mg/kg,  $p < 0.05$ ), muscle strength (Resv200mg/kg  $p < 0.05$ ), and quantity of muscle fibers (Resv200mg/kg,  $p < 0.001$  e Resv400mg/kg,  $p < 0.01$ ) in SMT ( $p < 0.05$ ). Resv significantly decreased WAT weight and adipocyte area (Resv200mg/kg,  $p < 0.01$  e Resv400mg/kg,  $p < 0.001$ ). Resv treatment increase adiponectin gene expression ( $p < 0.001$ ). Resv administration promoted reduced low-degree chronic inflammation in mice bearing tumor (Resv200mg/kg,  $p < 0.001$  e Resv400mg/kg,  $p < 0.01$ ). The most of these effects promoted by Resv were dose-dependent.

**Conclusions** Resv exhibits a plethora of anticachectic effects on plasma, SMT and WAT from C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor with CRC.

**Key-words:** cancer-related cachexia, C57BL/6 mice, B16F10 mouse melanoma cell, myokines, adipokines, cancer-related survival.

## Introduction

Resveratrol (Resv; 3,4',5-trihydroxystilbene) is a non-flavonoid, stilbene-based polyphenolic phytoalexin that naturally occurs in many plant sources. Resv molecule comprises two phenolic rings connected by a styrene double bond to produce 3,4',5-trihydroxystilbene, which naturally occurs in both chemical trans- (major isoform) and cis-isoforms. (1, 2). Functionally, It has been frequently reported that Resv exhibits diverse molecular targets in in components from normal, as well as, disturbed signaling pathways, such as membrane and intracellular receptors and ligands, transcription factors, biogenesis enzymes, intracellular oxidative systems, and DNA-repair, cell proliferation, differentiation, and apoptosis mechanisms (3). Due to that pleiotropic functional characteristic, Resv has been therapeutically used for many human diseases, which exhibit a variety of pathogenesis related to immunological, inflammatory, infectious, metabolic, and neoplastic disturbances (4-9). Cancer-related cachexia (CRC) is a multifactorial paraneoplastic syndrome characterized for involuntary ongoing loss of the skeletal muscle (SMT) and white adipose tissue (WAT) mass, that cannot be fully reversed by conventional nutritional supports. Consequently, CRC frequently leads the individual with cancer to progressive functional impairments ad death (2, 10). CRC is a prevalent pathological systemic condition that occurs in individuals with certain types of cancer since early stages of tumorigenesis but it reaches more clinical significance during late stages of tumor progression. The progressive physical consummation experienced by individuals with CRC mainly occurs due to a combination of anorexia, intense protein catabolism in skeletal muscle fibers and a negative energy balance that occurs in adipose tissues and other tissues. Of note, as occurs in other chronic pathological conditions, individuals with CRC exhibits a typical background of a chronic low-grade inflammation state (11, 12). Frequently, CRC is not readily

recognized, thoroughly assessed, and successfully managed therapeutically. Because of these aspect, CRC has been associated to poor outcomes in individuals with cancer such as, drastic decrease of quality of life, lower tolerance/reduced response to standard antineoplastic therapies, and a shorter survival, usually due to respiratory or cardiac failures. These aspects turns CRC one of the great clinical challenges to health professionals that deal with oncological treatment of individuals with cancer (12, 13).

Because it presents diverse anticancer actions and, additionally, presents little or no cytotoxicity in normal cells, there is a great clinical expectation of the use of Resv as a strategic adjuvant or neoadjuvant agent against cancer. However, there are limitations of Resv as some of its biochemical characteristics that hinder its bioavailability in organism In to concern to anticancer properties, findings from *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays have showed that Resv promotes a set of modulatory roles on various disturbed molecular components that participates of signaling pathways relevant to tumorigenesis and tumor progression phenomenon (14-17).(18, 19). Importantly, a few studies have been evidenced that Resv administration is able to exert anti-cachectic effects in mouse CRC models (1, 17). However, molecular mechanisms triggered by Resv in its anti-cachectic effects on CRC in mouse CRC models have not yet been fully unraveled.

The aim of this study was to analyze the effects of Resv administration on CRC occurrence and cancer-related survival of C57BL/6 mice with syngeneic CRC model. Moreover, we investigated if Resv administration could influence skeletal muscle mass and strength in control and case mice hindlimbs. Moreover, we compared a set of histomorphometry parameters and catabolic gene expression in SMT and WAT. Finally, we compared the plasma expression of inflammatory biomarkers between control and Resv treated mice.

## Material and methods

### *Reagents*

All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Poole, UK) unless otherwise stated. Trans-resveratrol (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 501-36-0) was obtained from Zhejiang Chemicals (Hangzhou, CHI). High glucose Dulbecco's modified Dulbecco's medium (DMEM), Gibco™ RPMI 1640 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA USA), fetal bovine serum (FBS, Euroclone, MI, ITA), 0.05% trypsin-EDTA, a penicillin-streptomycin mixture 100X (Lonza Walkersville, Inc., Basel, SWI), lipofectamine 2000, 3,4,5-dimethylthiazol-2,5 biphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT, Trizol reagent, and TaqMan gene expression assay and DNTP were obtained from Invitrogen, OligodT 15 primer and Random primer they were obtained Promega. Xylazine and ketamine 2% acquired from bayer laboratory.

### *Cell culture*

Murine B16-F10 cutaneous melanoma (CM) cell line (ATCC® CRL-6475™) was obtained from Antitumor Substances Laboratory, Institute of Biological Sciences, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Brazil. B16-F10 cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS (v/v), 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 mg/mL streptomycin, and 50 mM β-mercaptoethanol. The culture medium was filtered with a 0.22 μm filter and stored at -4° C. The pH of this culture medium was adjusted to 7.4. In use, the culture medium will be preheated at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub>-humidified incubator. After reaching around of 90% cell confluence in the culture plate, the adhered cells were released from the plate after treatment with trypsin for 5 minutes, oven temperature of 37° C, and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Soon after, the trypsin was inactivated with FBS 10%. The detached cells were centrifuged (1000 rpm),



suspended in Gibco™ RPMI 1640 culture medium and the cell concentration measured using Neubauer's mirrored chamber (Grid Optics, OG-200, Hong Kong, CHI).

### *Ethical aspects*

The *in vivo* study design addressed in this research project was analyzed and approved by the Ethics Committee in *Animal Well-being and Experimentation* of the State University of Montes Claros (protocol number: 131/2017), which follows the recommendations of the *Brazilian Code for Use of Laboratory Animals* (20).

### *Animals, syngeneic mouse tumor model, and treatment with Resv*

Seventy-two C57BL/6 female mice, 8-10 weeks old, were obtained from the Animal Facility Center from Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). Mice were maintained under controlled temperature ( $22 \pm 2^\circ \text{C}$ ), light (12 h of light/12 h of darkness), relative air humidity ( $60 \pm 5 \%$ ) and allowed free access to water and balanced food chow (Purina-Labina®, São Paulo, BRA). The food and water intake were manually measured three-times a week, calculating the difference between the weight of the received water and food and the reweight of the remained water and food, after 24 h after. All mice had body weight assessed daily. After one-week acclimatization, prior to syngeneic C57BL/6 CM model induction, the B16F10 cells were removed from culture flasks by adding 0.05% of trypsin solution, centrifuged, and resuspended in sterile PBS. C57BL/6 mice were subcutaneously inoculated with  $5 \times 10^5$  cells/animal (0.05 mL) into the flank using a 1-mL tuberculin syringe (Hamilton Co., Reno, NV, USA) with a 27-gauge hypodermic needle (21, 22).

Animals were randomly assigned into six groups, as follows: i. Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, administration of PBS 0.1 mL (placebo), no tumor induction (n = 8); ii. Control<sub>non-tumor/Resv200</sub>, administration of Resv 200mg/Kg body weight, no tumor induction (n = 8); iii. Control<sub>non-tumor/Resv400</sub>, administration of Resv 400mg/Kg body weight, no tumor induction (n = 8); iv. Control<sub>tumor</sub>, administration of PBS 0.1 mL, tumor induction (n = 10); v. Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, administration of Resv 200 mg/Kg body weight, tumor induction (n = 10); vi. Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> administration of Resv 400 mg/Kg body weight, tumor induction (n = 10).

Administration of Resv and placebo (PBS) in mice was performed with oral gavage and using a curved, ball-ended metal 1-mL tuberculin needle. Treatments were performed daily for 12 days.

#### *Assessment of tumor volume*

To establish a melanoma growth curve, the animals were monitored daily from the onset of clinically palpable tumor. A trained examiner, blinded to the animal group, was responsible for the daily recording of tumor volume using a digital caliper, with resolution of 0.01mm (Mitutoyo CSX-B, São Paulo, BRA) (23). Measurement of tumor volume was determined in cephalad-to-cauda, left-to-right and height dimensions and posteriorly application of the standard formula a prolate ellipsoid, tumor volume (mm<sup>3</sup>) = ( $\pi$  x length x width x height/ 6) (24, 25). We also performed the tumor measurement every 5 days after diagnosis of the tumor using a Doppler ultrasound imaging device (LOGIQ<sup>®</sup> e Pro, GE HealthCare Medical Systems, Inc. Wauwatosa, WI, USA) with electronic linear probe (L8-18i-RS). The gain, frequency, focus position, and depth parameters were adjusted appropriately to make sure that the tumor was displayed clearly on the screen. Tumor volume was scanned transversely, longitudinally and per

depth and image aspects of tumor, such as maximum diameter, margin and shape, were stored in the internal hard disk of the device for subsequent analysis (26).

#### *Diagnosis of the syngeneic mouse CM-related cachexia*

All mice were evaluated daily for body weight and water and food intake (Supplementary material. figure S1). Body weight and feed was recorded with the aid of an analytical balance precision digital scale (A.Cientifica EEQ9003E). Water consumption was recorded using a plastic beaker with volume scale (27).

In order that the tumor volume did not interfere with the changes in body weight, the daily tumor weight was subtracted from the daily body weight measurement. Then, a linear regression equation was used to define the relationship between tumor volume measured by the pachymeter and tumor weight. The equation was generated based on a 12-day experiment with tumor bearing animals (n = 12). Each day an animal was sacrificed and the tumor measures (volume and weight) were collected. At the end of the experiment, data were obtained from different tumor stages and the relation between weight and volume was defined in the linear equation (28) (Supplementary material. Figure S2). M-related cachexia was established as soon as the mice bearing syngeneic CM model show a loss of *at least 5% of body weight* during tumor progression (29). Mice were monitored for occurrence of signs of CRC progression, such as prolonged inactivity, dehydration, arched posture, occurrence of dry or color change of skin, coarse/rough coat, reddened eyes, and discharge of nasal secretion (30).

#### *Assessment of skeletal muscle volume*

Measurement of the skeletal muscle (SM) perimeter and volume from right hindlimb of C57BL/6 mice were assessed three times a week. SM perimeter was

performed using a digital caliper, with sensitivity of 0.01 mm, CSX-B model (Mitutoyo, São Paulo, BRA). SM volume measurement was performed using a Doppler ultrasound imaging device (LOGIQ<sup>®</sup> e Pro, GE HealthCare Medical Systems Inc., Wauwatosa, WI, USA) with dynamic range of 258 dB and frame rate of 1449 frames per second. The electronic linear probe with 11.1-mm x 34.8 mm footprint, and bandwidth of 6.7-18 MHz imaging frequency was used (L8-18i-RS). Gain, frequency, focus position, and depth parameters were adjusted appropriately to make sure that the SM tissues (gastrocnemius, tibialis, and quadriceps) were displayed clearly on the screen, scanned transversely and longitudinally. Sonographic images were stored in the internal hard disk of the device for subsequent analysis (31).

#### *Skeletal muscle strength analysis*

To perform the hindlimbs and hind limbhindlimbs grip strength analysis in all , we used an automated grip strength meter (Bonther<sup>®</sup>, São Paulo, BRA) device (32). The assessment of muscle strength in all groups occurred 7 days before inoculation on the day of cancer induction, and 10 and 15 days after. Mice were initially weighed, restarted the meter, chose grams as unit/scale of values, raised the animal by its tail to the height where both hindlimbs and hind limbhindlimbs are at the same height as the bar, moved the animal horizontally to the bar until reaching the reach, visually checked a symmetrical and tight grip with both hindlimbs and hindlimbsexerting a detectable resistance against the investigator pull, gently pulled the animal to away until its grip was separated. The pull was at a constant speed and slow enough to allow the mouse to increase resistance against it, turned backward during traction or left the bar without resistance. Sufficient time (at least one-minute minimum interval) between the measurements was allowed in order to allow the animal to recover and avoid habit

formation. Total peak force was measured and average of three attempts was registered. A normalized grip strength was obtained by dividing the muscle strength value by the body weight of animal.

#### *Euthanasia and collection of biological material*

Euthanasia was performed by decapitation on anesthetized animals with ketamine 100 mg/kg and xylazine 10mg/kg, diluted in 100 µl of saline solution. The tumor, blood, SM muscles and BAT and WAT adipose tissues were collected. Tissues were subjected to macroscopic examination, weighed on an analytical balance and stored for further analysis.

#### *Plasma inflammatory biomarkers measurement*

Serum albumin levels were measured using the bromocresol green dye-binding method with a Roche Modular DP analyzer device (Roche Diagnostics, Basel, SWI) used the Labmax plenno automation (LabTest Diagnóstica, Lagoa Santa, MG, BRA). High-sensitive C-reactive protein (CRP) level was determined with a highly sensitive latex reagent immunoassay (33)

#### *Tissues samples and histomorphometric studies*

After euthanasia, hindlimb SM (gastrocnemius, quadriceps, and soleum), brown adipose tissue (BAT) from scapula, white adipose tissue (WAT) from epididymal were removed, weighted, properly fixed, and stored. A fragment of the samples was embedded in optimal cut temperature compound (Tissue-Tek<sup>®</sup>, Sakura Finetek, USA), frozen in liquid nitrogen-cooled isopentane, stored at -80°C, and posteriorly cut into 10 µm thick cryosections with a cryostat (Microm HM525, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Another fresh fragment was kept in RNA holder for posterior gene expression assays. A third fragment was removed and placed

in buffered 10% formalin solution overnight and embedded in paraffin and submitted to five-micron-thick sections using a Leica RM2125 (Leica Biosystems, IL, USA) microtome. SM, WAT, and BAT sections were stained with H&E and Masson's Trichrome. Tissue sections were observed with microphotographs from these tissues were taken with an Olympus FSX100 microscope (Tokyo, JPN). Histomorphometrical analyses were performed using ImageJ software (33, 34). SM tissue sections were made at 90° and 180° to the longitudinal axis of the muscle fibers. At least five distinct randomly chosen microscopic fields of the SM tissues *per* animal were photographed. We quantified the number of SM fibers. Additionally, we calculated the cross-sectional area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) of the SM fiber as the smallest diameter across an ellipse, which corresponds to the narrowest aspect of the fiber (35). Measurements of quantity and area of the SM fiber were evaluated at final magnification of 200x. A minimum number of fibers ( $n = 30$ , *per* animal) were counted to ensure measurements representative of the overall specimen. The presence of lipid droplets in SM tissues (perivascular, interfibrillar, and intramyocellular lipid spaces) was measured through optical density (OD) at 520 nm (36). Morphological images from epididymal WAT and scapular BAT sections were stained with H&E and Oil red O. At least three distinct randomly chosen microscopic fields of the samples *per* animal were photographed at 20× optical magnification. The images were submitted to morphometric analyses to estimate the number, diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ ), and area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) of the adipocytes. In WAT, in addition to the previously mentioned parameters, the number of intracellular lipid droplets was measured (37).

Initially, microscopic image calibration was performed to recognize the sample size based on the number of pixels and magnification of the microscope. The pixel ratio was set to 1, the unit length in  $\mu\text{m}$  and the "Global" box was selected to maintain the

settings of all subsequent image analyzes. To determine these parameters the image was taken with the same magnification of the images of interest (38). Limit image adjustment was performed with the objective of providing defined areas consisting of membrane material and void space identified by black and white, respectively. After defining the areas of interest, the image was converted into a binary format to allow analysis. Each membrane was uniformly augmented to define the cell membrane and to identify the individual area of each cell. Using the "Measure and label macro" tool of ImageJ, the cells were defined by means of a yellow trace in their interior and by a unique number in the center (39). Later the tool "Wand" was in charge of counting, being that the cells that touched the edge of the image were not counted. After the quantification and measurement of the areas, the recorded data were copied, followed by the statistical analysis (40). All histomorphological and histometric analyses were carried out by two authors (de-Paula, AMB and Cardoso-Filho, O) who were blinded to the mice group distribution.

*RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis, and quantitative real time-polimerase chain reaction (qPCR) gene expression analysis*

Samples were purified using Trizol according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA was isolated with DNase I (Deoxyribonuclease I, AMBION) to remove genomic DNA contamination. Reverse transcription reaction was performed using transcriptase reversa (M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase – Invitrogen, USA), OligodT (15) primer (PROMEGA), Random Primers (PROMEGA) and Rnase OUT (Invitrogen). The RNA concentration was measured by UV absorbance. RNA samples with an A260/280 ratio between 1.8 to 2.0 were used. RT-PCR reactions were set up in triplicate using TaqMan gene assays and amplified in an QuantStudio™ 6 Flex (Thermofisher). The

amplification reactions were conducted according to the manufacturer's instructions with the aid of taqman assays. Primers evaluated on muscle tissue samples were GAPDH (Mm99999915\_g1), Igf2 (Mm00439564\_m1), Myog (Mm00446194\_m1), Igf1 (Mm00439560\_m1), FBXO32 (Mm00499523\_m1), TRIM63 (Mm01185221\_m1), TRIM55 (Mm01292969\_m1), Srebf (Mm00550338\_m1), PPAR-gamma (Mm00440940\_m1) were evaluated on dipose tissue samples. Internal template controls (GAPDH) run under the same conditions.

For each gene, the number of cycles required for exponential amplification was determined on 40 cycles. Gene expression levels were normalized to the level of GAPDH expression. Paired t-tests were conducted on relative quantity (RQ) values for each group to determine their significance.

### *Survival analysis*

Groups of control<sub>tumor</sub> (n = 10) and experimental (Resv<sub>200tumor</sub> and Resv<sub>400tumor</sub>, n = 10, in each group) mice were submitted to survival analysis between study groups during follow-up of 18 days after CRC diagnosis at most. Kaplan-Meier survival curves were estimated for each event and the curves of the different groups were compared using the log-rank test. However, any mice were euthanized as soon as they become moribund, exhibiting severe impairment of bodily functions or behavior due to extensive necrosis, ulceration, and growth of the tumor mass.

### *Statistical analysis*

All the data collected were scanned in an electronic database. Subsequently, the data were analyzed statistically in the PASW<sup>®</sup> software (*Predictive Analytics Software*). Results were expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. The confidence level adopted in all analyzes



was established in 95% ( $p < 0.05$ ). Data from all groups were analyzed using Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance on ranks followed by Bonferroni correction multiple comparison test. The confidence level adopted in all analyzes will be set at 95% ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Results

*Resv promoted gain of body weight in the of C57BL/6 bearing-tumor mice.*

To determine whether Resv administration could influence body weight, we assessed body weight daily in both control and C57BL/6 bearing-tumor mice. Body weight measurement of bearing-tumor mice was corrected with subtraction of the tumor weight per day. Figure 1A exhibits the evolution of body weight of all control and treated with Resv mice. According to our findings, the non-tumor mice treated with Resv 400 mg/kg ( $\text{Control}_{\text{non-tumor/Resv400}}$ ) showed a tendency in exhibiting a greater body weight loss compared to control mice ( $\text{Control}_{\text{no-tumor}}$ ). However, bearing-tumor mice treated with Resv ( $\text{Resv200}_{\text{tumor}}$  and  $\text{Resv400}_{\text{tumor}}$ ) exhibited a lower body weight loss when compared to  $\text{Control}_{\text{tumor}}$  group from the fifth day of treatment. At the end of treatment, all groups treated with resveratrol had statistically different body weights from the  $\text{Control}_{\text{tumor}}$  group (Figure 1A). At the twelfth day, the mean values of the body weight assessment for each studied group were  $\text{Control}_{\text{non-tumor}} = 23.03 \pm 1.53$  g,  $\text{Control}_{\text{non-tumor/Resv200}} = 21.40 \pm 1.18$  g,  $\text{Control}_{\text{non-tumor/Resv400}} = 20.18 \pm 1.09$  g,  $\text{Control}_{\text{tumor}} = 17.14 \pm 1.51$  g,  $\text{Resv200}_{\text{tumor}} = 20.81 \pm 1.06$  g, and  $\text{Resv400}_{\text{tumor}} = 18.38 \pm 1.24$  g (Figure 1C). The difference in body weight between them can be seen in the figure 1B.

*Resv administration delayed CRC occurrence and improved CRS of the C57BL/6 bearing-tumor mice*

Kaplan-Meier curves represent the time of diagnosis for cancer-related cachexia (CRC) and overall cancer-related survival (CRS) of the C57BL/6 bearing-tumor mice (Control<sub>tumor</sub>, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub>) (Figure 2). Mean time for CRC diagnosis in C57BL/6 bearing-tumor mice was Control<sub>tumor</sub> ( $5.12 \pm 1.12$  days), Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $8 \pm 2.77$  days), and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $10.57 \pm 2.31$  days) (Figure 2A). Our previous findings showed that C57BL/6 mice with syngeneic CM model developed CRC in  $6.8 \pm 2.01$  days in mean (data not shown). In this current study, CRC diagnosis occurred earlier in Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice compared to other experimental groups. In the seventh day, all mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> had developed CRC, while about 50% mice from Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and 70% of mice from Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> were still presenting a non-cachectic or pre-cachectic condition (body weight lesser than 5%). Control<sub>tumor</sub> group significantly exhibited an earlier CRC occurrence compared to Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p = 0.018$  for both groups) (Figure 2B). In order to investigate CRS in this study, all mice were followed-up by a period of 18 days after tumor induction. When CRS data were compared using Log-rank test and Kaplan-Meier graphics, it was showed that mice from Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> groups exhibited a better CRS compared to mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group ( $p = 0.038$  and  $p = 0.040$ , respectively) (Figures 2C-D).

*Resv promoted gain of skeletal muscle volume and weight in control and bearing-tumor C57BL/6 mice*

We investigated whether Resv administration could influence the skeletal muscle (SM) volume from mice. An ultrasound device was used to acquisition of the right hindlimb SM images for volume analysis in each animal. Ultrasonographic exam

was performed at three times during experiment (second, seventh, and eleventh days) (Figure 3A). Our findings showed that all bearing-tumors mice exhibited significant reduction of the SM volume compared to mice from Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> groups ( $p < 0.001$ , for seventh and eleventh days). Additionally, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> groups exhibited a higher gain of SM volume compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice on eleventh day of treatment ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p < 0.05$ , respectively) (Figure 3B). Soon after mice sacrifice, right hindlimb MS was assessed macroscopically and then weighed using an analytical balance (Figure 4A). Among non-tumor mice, Resv400 administration promoted SM weight gain compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> group ( $p < 0.001$ ). In C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor, our findings showed that Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups exhibited a higher SM weight gain compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.001$ , respectively) (Figure 4B). Posteriorly, the SM which make up hind limb (gastrocnemius, femoral quadriceps, and tibial) were dissected, weighed individually, and data were compared. When compared with Control<sub>tumor</sub> group, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> mice exhibited higher gain of weight in quadriceps ( $p < 0.001$ ) and tibial ( $p < 0.05$ ) muscles while Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice exhibited higher weight gain for gastrocnemius ( $p < 0.05$ ), quadriceps ( $p = 0.001$ ), and tibial ( $p = 0.001$ ) muscles (Figures 4C-E).

*Resv promoted increasing of skeletal muscle strength of control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor*

The SM strength of the forelimbs in control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor was performed with a handgrip strength meter. This assessment occurred one day before of starting treatment, and fourth, seventh, and twelfth days of treatment (Figure 5A). According to our findings, on twelfth day, with the exception of the mice of the Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> group, all the other mice groups showed significant increase of the grip

muscle strength compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.05$ ). Despite this, with seven days of treatment, resveratrol promoted an increase in strength of the animals of the Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> group. Mice from Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited higher forelimb muscle strength compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice after four and twelfth days of treatment ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 5A-B).

*Resv promoted increase of number but not muscle fiber area of gastrocnemius from control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor*

Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> exhibited lower number (unity) of SM fibers compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200, Resv400, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.001$ , for all associations) and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ ) (Figure 6A). Assessment of the SM fiber area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) of the gastrocnemius not showed difference between study groups (Figure 6B). Representative microscopical tissue images of the gastrocnemius muscle from control and mice bearing tumor groups treated with Resv (Figure 6C).

*Resv promoted lower adipocyte number and cell area in WAT from control and C57BL/6 mice bearing CM*

We investigated whether Resv administration could influence the epididymal WAT weight of control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. Overall, Resv administration promoted WAT weight loss in both healthy and mice bearing CM. Control<sub>tumor</sub>, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> groups not exhibited difference when WAT weight. Mice from both Resv200<sub>non-tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>non-tumor</sub> groups exhibited significant WAT loss compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> mice group ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 7A). Both control and mice bearing CM not treated with Resv also exhibited significant decreasing for number and area of adipocytes compared to control and mice bearing CM treated with Resv ( $p <$

0.05, for all associations) (Figures 7B-D). Representative images of the WAT tissues from both control and experimental mice groups exhibit findings of the histomorphometrical parameters analyzed (Figure 7E).

*Resv modulate the expression of the myokines related to CRC in control and mice bearing tumors.*

We selected six myokines genes related to modulation of signaling pathways that modulate CRC pathogenesis, such as *MYOG*, *FBXO32*, *IGF1*, *IGF2*, *TRIM55*, and *TRIM63*. It was performed qPCR in order to investigate gene expression of the selected myokines in SM tissues from control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. Mice treated with Resv were jointly grouped. In this way, Resv represented both Resv200 and Resv400 mice groups, and Resv<sub>tumor</sub> represented Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice bearing tumor groups. Treatment with Resv in animals without tumor did not alter the expression of the genes under study ( $p > 0.05$  - Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> x Control<sub>non-tumorResv</sub>). Comparison of gene expression between tumor animals (Control<sub>tumor</sub>) and healthy animals (Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>) revealed that the tumor promotes increased IGF2 and TRIM63 ( $p < 0.05$ ). Resv significantly reduced gene expression of *MYOG* ( $p < 0.001$ ), *IGF2* ( $p < 0.05$ ), and *TRIM55* ( $p < 0.05$ ) of the SM in Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice group compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub>. In the other hand, Resv significantly increased gene expression of *FBXO32* ( $p < 0.01$ ), *IGF1* ( $p < 0.05$ ), and *TRIM63* ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 8).

*Resv administration decreases the expression of pro-cachectic adipokine sin WAT from control and mice bearing tumors.*

We selected two adipokines genes related to modulation of signaling pathways that modulate CRC pathogenesis, such as *PPAR-γ* and *SREBF1*. It was performed qPCR

in order to investigate gene expression of the selected adipokines in WAT from control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. As previously reported, mice treated with Resv were jointly grouped. Bearing-tumor animals showed significantly increased SREBF1 gene expression relative to non-tumor animals ( $p < 0.05$  - Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> x Control<sub>tumor</sub>). Resv treatment did not alter the expression of *PPAR- $\gamma$*  and SREBF1 in healthy animals ( $p > 0.05$  - Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> x Control<sub>non-tumorResv</sub>). However, bearing-tumor mice treated with Resv exhibited the higher gene relative expression levels for both selected genes compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> group ( $p < 0.05$ , for *PPAR- $\gamma$* , and  $p < 0.001$  for SREBF1) (Figure 9).

*Resv decreased CRP and increased albumin plasma levels in C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor.*

We assessed the influence of Resv treatment on albumin and CRP plasma levels of the control and mice bearing tumors. Peripheral blood samples were collected in the end of treatment (twelfth day). Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited lower albumin levels compared to mice from Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> group ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 10A). Conversely, mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited higher CRP levels compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$  for all associations) (Figure 10B).

## Discussion

Our findings showed that mice treated with Resv significantly promoted a delayed in CRC occurrence, promoted gain of body weight, and improved survival of mice with CRC. Moreover, Resv administration promoted hypertrophic and hyperplastic effects on SMT, such as gain of weight, volume, and strength, as well as, higher quantity of muscle fibers. In WAT, Resv significantly decreased weight and adipocyte area, in both controls and mice bearing tumor. Resv treatment positively modulated the expression of anti-cachectic myokines and adiponectins. In a systemic point of view, Resv promoted a reduction of the low-degree chronic inflammation in mice bearing tumor.

In our study, resv. in addition to decreasing tumor volume, was responsible for making it difficult to establish the cachexia of animals treated with 200 mg/kg and 400 mg/kg. Similar to the result found in another study, mice bearing tumors treated with 200 mg/kg resveratrol promoted similar body weight gain (41) control.

Clinically, cachexia is represented by significant body weight loss, being this, important factor in determining the time of cachexia (42). Our data initially show weight loss in mice in the early stage of tumor development, possibly due to the nutritional needs of its establishment. However, treatment with resv reestablished the body weight of the animals.

In individuals with CRC, the loss of body weight is one of the most prevalent clinical findings (rates between 50% and 80%, depending on the type of cancer) related to cancer progression. Although this condition is more frequently diagnosed in individuals with advanced malignancy, it has been evidenced that the weight loss begins during early stages of cancer (pre-cancer), where the primary malignancy may not even be clinically noted (42-46).

Skeletal muscle loss appears to be the most essential component associated with a poor outcome in cancer cachexia (47). It is common for the anabolic and catabolic balance of skeletal muscle proteins to be disrupted during tumor progression (48, 49). Tumor tissue secrete specific factors for its development, thus promoting loss of muscle mass (50) and when mediated by the inflammatory condition play a significant role in the loss of skeletal muscle strength (51, 52). Resv decreases possible oxidative damage, and promotes reduction of the protein ubiquitinação, indicating less protein degradation (53), however, our findings show the role of resveratrol in the preservation of skeletal muscle, considering the behavior of the expression of genes such as IGF1, TRIM55/MuRF2, TRIM63/MuRF1 and MYOG.

IGF1 is a key factor that regulates the development and growth of skeletal muscle capable of enhancing protein synthesis and inhibiting protein degradation and promotes muscle hypertrophy (54), more precisely in fast contraction fibers, because the MLC activator, active predominantly in fast II fibers (55, 56) this is possibly due to activation of the AKT pathway. Increased expression of IGF1 was observed in our study in bearing-tumor animals treated with resveratrol.

Over-expression of TRIM55/MuRF2 was shown to be important for the stability of microtubules along with other M-line proteins (56, 57). MuRF1 is the only member of the family that is associated with muscle atrophy and results in attenuation of muscle loss when excluded (58, 59). Our study showed effect of Resv as an inhibitor of TRIM63/MuRF1 and Myog gene expression, reinforcing again the importance of resveratrol in skeletal muscle hypertrophy. TRIM63/MuRF1 is involved in the binding of selective substrates for ubiquitination and subsequent degradation by the 26S proteasome. Thus, increased expression after an atrophy-inducing stressor is believed to be responsible for the change in protein balance from the liquid synthesis to the net



degradation, thereby inducing a loss of muscle mass (60). A study showed that resveratrol prevented an increase in the expression of TRIM63, preventing muscle atrophy induced by cachexia associated with chronic kidney disease (61). Our findings confirm the increase in muscle strength when resveratrol promoted a decrease in Myog expression. Myog is an important developmental regulator for the formation of skeletal muscles during embryonic and fetal development. In adults it is preferentially expressed in slow contracting muscle fibers (62). However, in cell culture, low doses of myogenin promote the formation of fast contracting fibers (63), such as the gastrocnemius muscle. In addition, a study shows that adult mice with Myog deletion exhibit 56% more exercise capacity, culminating with our results. In this sense, the role of myogenin in adult skeletal muscle seems to be different from its role in the embryonic and fetal muscle (64).

In our study, the resv suppressed white adipose tissue, depending on the presence of the tumor. Resv, compost protects against obesity induced (65-67), decreasing area (68) and the amount of adipocytes (69-71). Adipogenesis involving the proliferation of pre-adipocytes and the maturation of adipocytes is driven by important adipogenic transcription factors such as PPAR $\gamma$ . It is known that this transcription factor act coordinately in adipogenesis and therefore is believed to play central roles in modulating the whole process of differentiation (72, 73). After activation, PPAR $\gamma$  regulate each other to maintain high levels of expression, as well as to induce the expression of adipocyte-related proteins, including SREBF-1 (74). The low expression of SREBF-1 may decrease lipid synthesis, increase lipid oxidation (75). In our study, we found that resv significantly inhibited SREBF-1 expression, suggesting the anti-adipogenic effect of the traditional down-regulation of resveratrol in the expression

of transcription factors such as PPAR $\gamma$  and SREBF1 during adipocyte differentiation (76).

The improvement of effects related to cachexia in our study may have been due to the anti-inflammatory action exerted by resveratrol (77, 78). This can be explained when resv increased levels of albumin and decreased levels and CRP in the groups that showed improved symptoms of cachexia.

Albumin (ALB) can maintain colloid pressure and transport free fatty acids, bilirubin, and drug metabolites. Serum ALB may be low during acute inflammation, but it is also affected by nutritional status. A low ALB level is most often linked with chronic disease, frequently correlated with nutritional status (79, 80). Meanwhile, CRP/ALB ratio, a new inflammation-based prognostic score, has been demonstrated to show prognostic value in hepatocellular carcinoma, esophageal squamous cell carcinoma, and small cell lung cancer (81-84).

Resv was responsible for making it difficult to establish the cachexia of animals treated with 200 mg/kg and 400 mg/kg. Similar to the result found in another study, mice bearing tumors treated with 200 mg/kg resveratrol promoted similar body weight gain (41) control. The improvement of effects related to cachexia in our study may have been due to the anti-inflammatory action exerted by resveratrol (77, 78). This can be explained when resv increased levels of albumin and decreased levels and CRP in the groups that showed improved symptoms of cachexia.

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Mouse CM models have been used in preclinical studies in order to better uncover characteristics of tumor biology, notably the molecular mechanisms responsible for determining the clinical behavior of CM (22). Notably, there is a paucity of information dealing with diagnosis, pathogenesis, therapeutic approaches, and outcomes related to CRC from mouse melanoma models (21-24). Although presenting limitations that typically occur in study designs with animal model, it can potentially contribute to a better understanding about CRC pathogenesis during MC progression. Additionally, they offer the advantage of facilitating the development of new pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapeutic approaches for CRC treatment (25-27).

In conclusion, findings from this study showed that Resv administration promoted a plethora of anti-cachectic effects in C57BL/6 mice bearing CM-related cachexia model, with resulting improvement of CRS of animals.

**Conflict of interest**

None to declare.

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### **Legends of figures**

**Figure 1.** Effect of Resv on body weight of the control and C57BL/6 mice tumor model. Weight body (g) measurements were daily performed (A). Macroscopic appearances of control and experimental mice on day 12 (B). On the first and seventh day of follow-up, the body weight from experimental mice were estimated discounting the tumor weight. The tumor weight was estimated using a linear regression equation according to formula:  $y = 0.0006x + 0.0769$ , which  $x$  is tumor volume and  $y$  represents tumor mass, with value of  $R^2 = 0.9848$  (positive co-operation). All animals were sacrificed at twelfth day after CRC diagnosis. After sacrifice, carcass and tumor weights were distinctly measured. Measurements of the mice body weight (carcass) on day 12 (C). Significant differences for body weight measurements were noted between groups at day 1: Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ ), Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ ), Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Control<sub>non-tumor/Resv200</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ ); at day 7: Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ ), Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> vs. Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ ); and at day 12: Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Figure 2.** Effect of Resv administration on occurrence of cancer-related cachexia (CRC) and on overall cancer-related survival (CRS) in C57BL/6 mice with syngeneic tumor model. Follow-up of all mice bearing tumor lasted 18 days. CRC diagnosis (in days) was established at weight loss  $\geq 10\%$ . Time of CRC diagnosis was individually and daily assessed in each animal. Data from mice bearing tumor groups ( $n = 10$ , in each group) were compared using Log-rank test and curves were represented by Kaplan-Meier plots. CRC diagnosis and CRS data were compared between study groups (A) Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p = 0.018$ ). CRC diagnosis occurred in mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> ( $5.12 \pm 1.24$  days), Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $8 \pm 2.77$  days), and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $10.75 \pm 2.31$  days). According to our findings, significant differences between groups were noted for CRC diagnosis occurrence were noted in Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p = 0.05$ ) and Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p = 0.001$ ) (B). In to concerns to CRS, significant differences were observed between Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p = 0.038$ ) (C), and Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p = 0.040$ ) (D).

**Figure 3.** Effect of Resv on right hindlimb skeletal muscle volume (SMV) hindlimb of the C57BL/6 mice control and syngeneic CM cancer model. SMV assessment occurred at 2 (tumor induction), 7, and 11 days. Resv treatments started at baseline. SMV was assessed using an ultrasound device (A). Mice bearing tumors exhibited significant reduction of the SM volume compared to control mice ( $p < 0.001$ , for all comparisons). Mice from Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> groups exhibited a higher gain of SM volume compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p < 0.05$ , respectively) (B).

**Figure 4.** Effect of Resv on right hindlimb skeletal muscle (SM) weight from right hindlimb of the control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. All SM weight measurements occurred on the last day. Macroscopic appearance of the right hindlimb from control and experimental mice soon after sacrifice (A). Student's t test was performed in order to compare SM weight between groups. Resv200 and Resv400 administration promoted SM weight gain in both control and mice bearing tumor (B). Mice from Resv400 exhibited SM weight gain compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> group ( $p < 0.05$ ). In mice bearing tumors, our findings showed that Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> groups exhibited a higher SM weight gain compared to Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.0015$ , respectively). Comparisons of the individual weight analysis of the SM which make up hindlimb showed that Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited lower gain of the relative SM weight compared to Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> mice (quadriceps:  $p = 0.001$  and tibial:  $p < 0.05$ ) and compared to Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice (gastrocnemius:  $p < 0.05$ , femoral quadriceps:  $p = 0.001$ , and tibial:  $p = 0.001$ ) (C-E).

**Figure 5.** Effect of Resv on skeletal muscle (SM) relative strength from forelimbs of control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. SM strength assessment occurred at fourth, seventh, Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Resv200, and Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Resv400 ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p < 0.01$ , respectively), and twelfth days Control<sub>tumor</sub> vs. Resv200 ( $p < 0.05$ ) (A). Notably, Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice exhibited lower SM strength compared to normal (Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200, and Resv400) ( $p < 0.05$ ) and mice bearing tumor treated with ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Figure 6.** Effect of Resv on number (unity) and SM fiber area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) from gastrocnemius muscle in control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. Cytomorphometrical analysis was performed using ImageJ software. Student's t test was performed in order to compare WAT weight between study groups. Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> showed a lower number of

the SM fibers compared to study groups Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200, Resv400, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.001$ , for all associations) and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ ) (A). Assessment of the SM fiber area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) of the gastrocnemius not showed difference between study groups (B). Representative microscopical tissue images of the gastrocnemius muscle of both control and mice bearing tumor groups treated with Resv (stain: Masson's trichrome, magnification: x200) (C).

Figure 7. Effect of Resv on number (unity) and adipocytes area ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ ) from epididymal white adipose tissue (WAT) in control and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. Cytomorphometrical analysis was performed using ImageJ software. Student's t test was performed in order to compare WAT weight between study groups. Notably, control and mice bearing tumor treated with Resv exhibited decrease of the WAT weight. However, significant differences were only showed for Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> vs. Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ ) and Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> vs. Resv400 ( $p < 0.05$ ) (A). The number of adipocytes were compared between groups. Mice from Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> group exhibited higher adipocyte number compared to Resv200, Resv400 Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.001$ , for all associations). Additionally, mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> exhibited lower adipocytes number compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200, and Resv400 mice groups ( $p < 0.05$ , for all associations) and to Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.001$ , for all associations). Similarly, both control and mice bearing tumor treated with Resv showed a lower adipocyte area compared to non-treated mice. Comparisons of the adipocyte area between groups showed significant differences between Control<sub>non-tumor</sub> vs Resv200, Resv400, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.01$ , for all associations) while mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> exhibited higher adipocyte area compared to Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.01$ , for both associations). Figure 7D exhibits adipocyte area/unity relationship according to study groups. Representative microscopical tissue images of the gastrocnemius muscle of both control and experimental mice groups (stain: Masson's trichrome, magnification: 200X).

Figure 8. Effect of Resv on relative gene expression of selected myokines (*MYOG*, *FXOB32*, *IGF1*, *IGF2*, *TRIM55*, and *TRIM63*) in SM tissue from controls and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. *MYOG* expression in SM tissues from Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice was significantly reduced in comparison to Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.001$ ) (A). *FBXO32* expression in SM from Control<sub>tumor</sub> was significantly higher that Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p <$

0.01) (B). *IGF1* expression in SM tissues from Control<sub>tumor</sub> was increased in comparison to Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.5$ ) (D). *IGF2* expression in SM tissues from Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice were reduced in comparison to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv, and Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.01$ , for all associations) (D). TRIM55 expression was reduced in SM from Control<sub>tumor</sub> compared to Resv and Resv<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ , for both associations) (E). TRIM63 expression was increased in SM from Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice compared to Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice ( $p < 0.05$ ) (F).

Figure 9. Effect of Resv on relative gene expression of selected adipokines *PPAR $\gamma$*  and *SREBF1* in WAT from controls and C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor. A higher *PPAR $\gamma$*  and *SREBF1* expressions were noted in WAT from Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice. Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> exhibited higher WAT *PPAR $\gamma$*  expression compared Resv and Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.01$ , for both associations) (A). WAT from Control<sub>tumor</sub> mice exhibited a higher *SREBF1* expression compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv, and Resv<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.001$ , for all associations) (B).

Figure 10. Plasma levels of albumin and C-reactive protein (CRP) of control and mice bearing tumor treated with Resv. Mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited lower albumin levels compared to Resv400 and Resv200<sub>tumor</sub> ( $p < 0.05$ , for both associations) (A). In the other hand, mice from Control<sub>tumor</sub> group exhibited higher CRP levels compared to Control<sub>non-tumor</sub>, Resv200<sub>tumor</sub>, and Resv400<sub>tumor</sub> mice groups ( $p < 0.01$ , for all associations) (B).

## Figures

Figure 1.

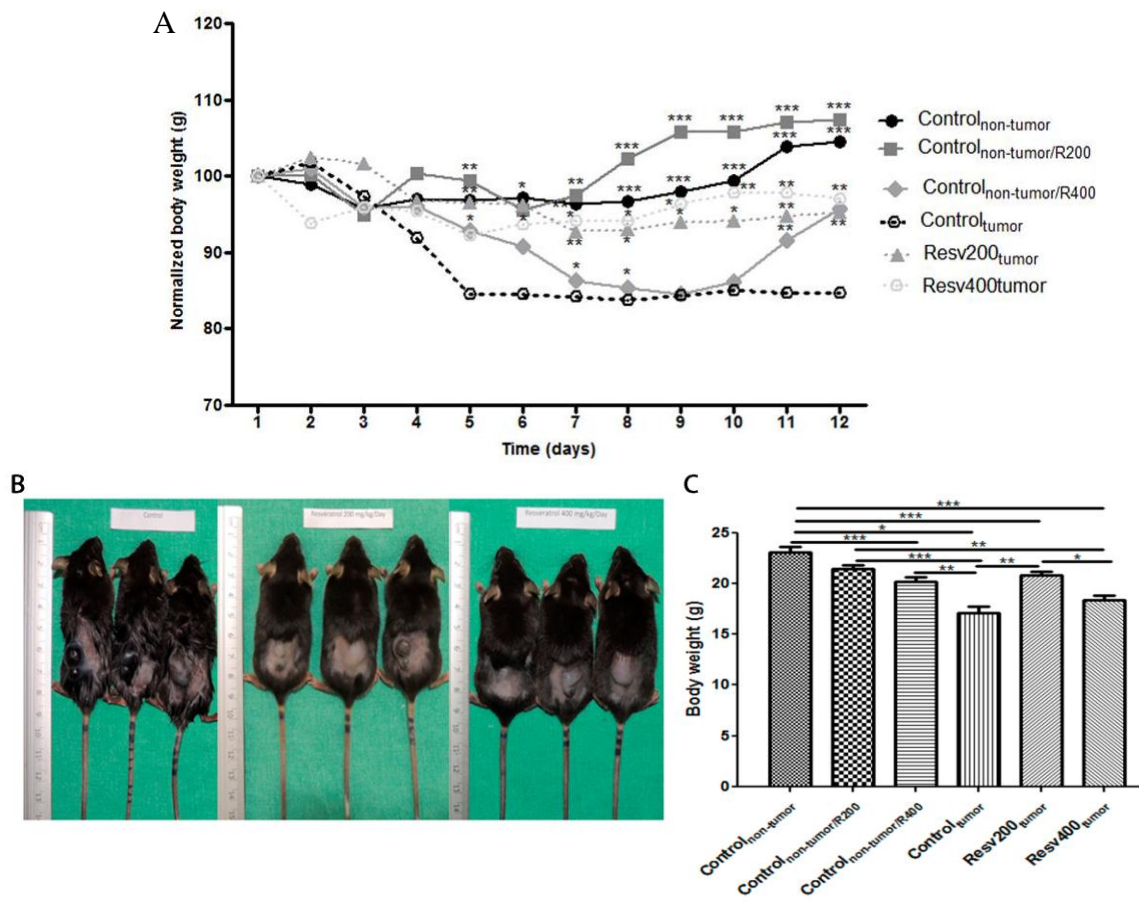




Figure 2.

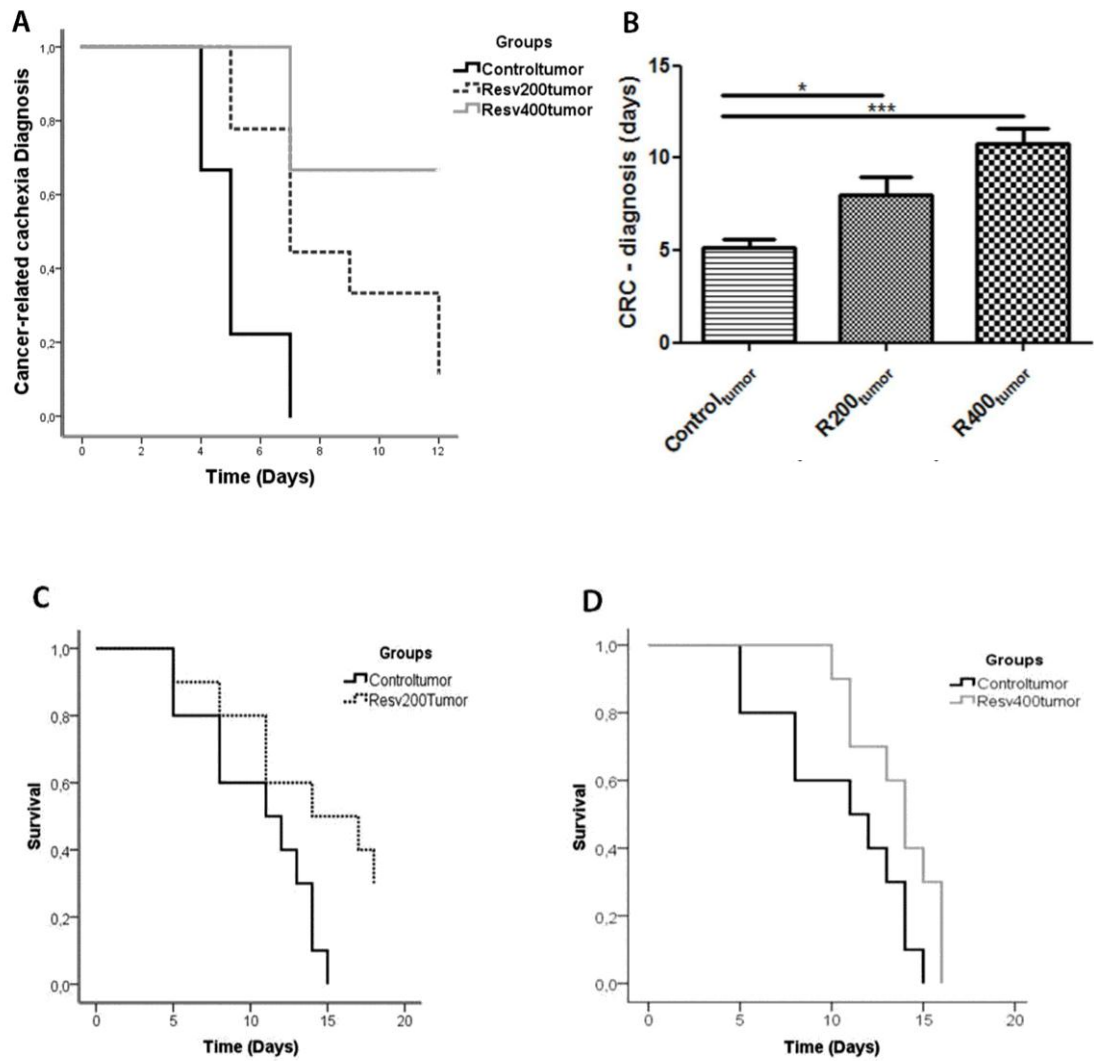


Figure 3.

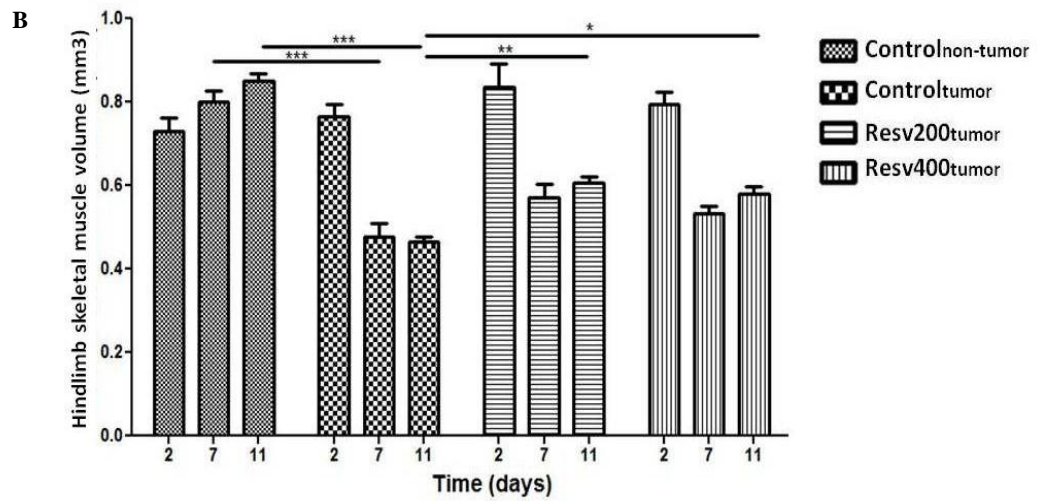
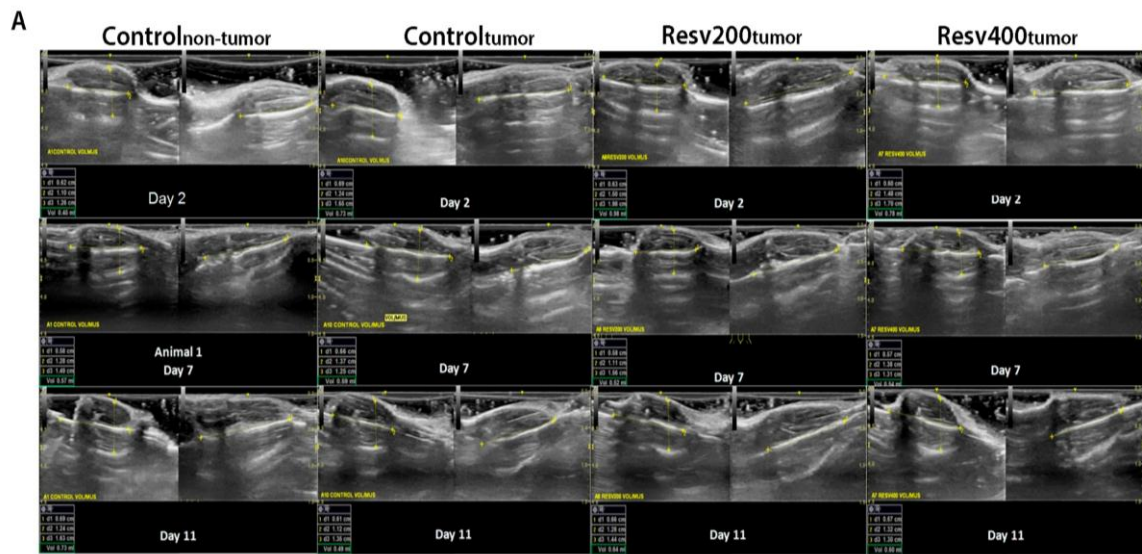


Figure 4.

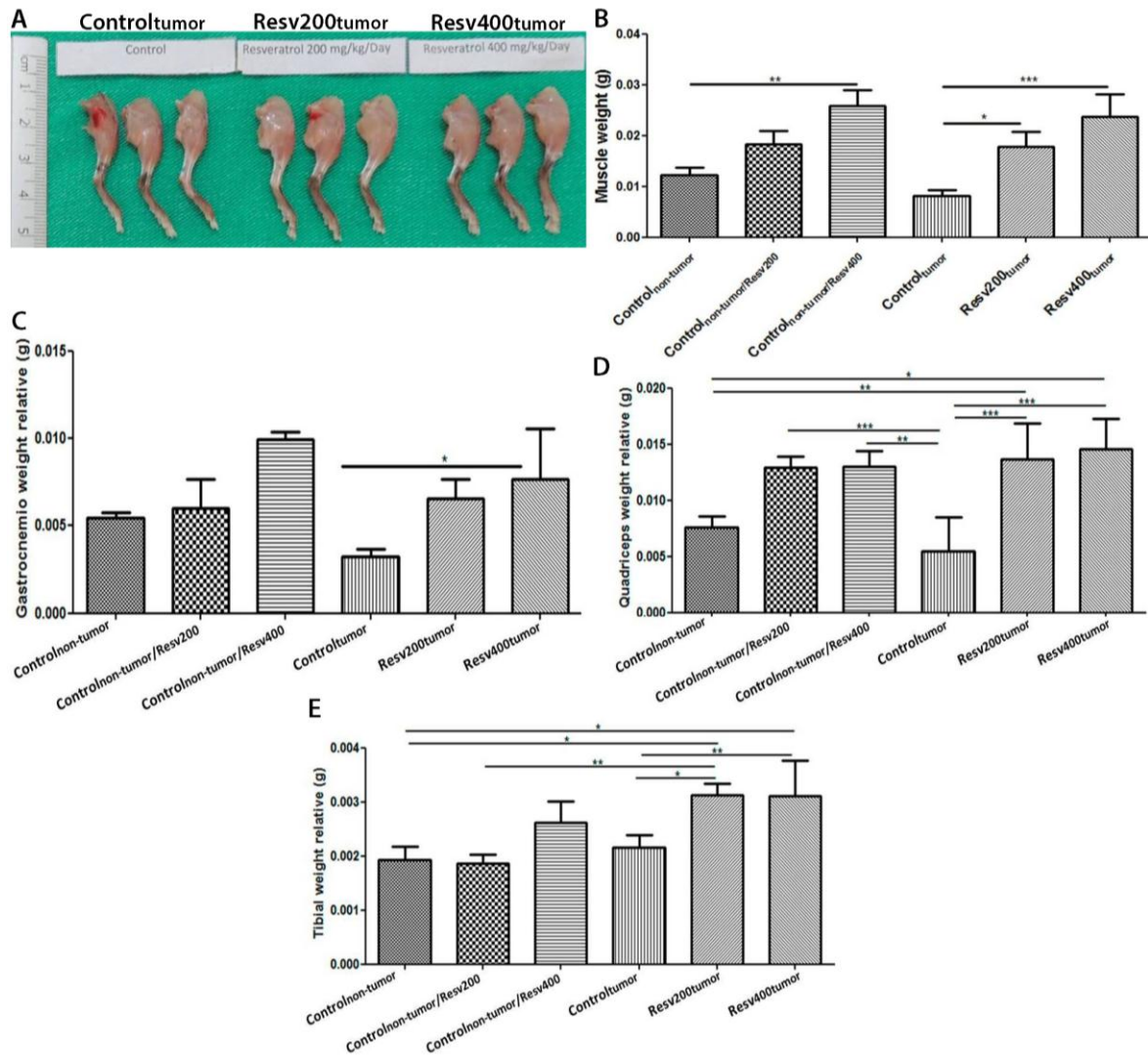


Figure 5

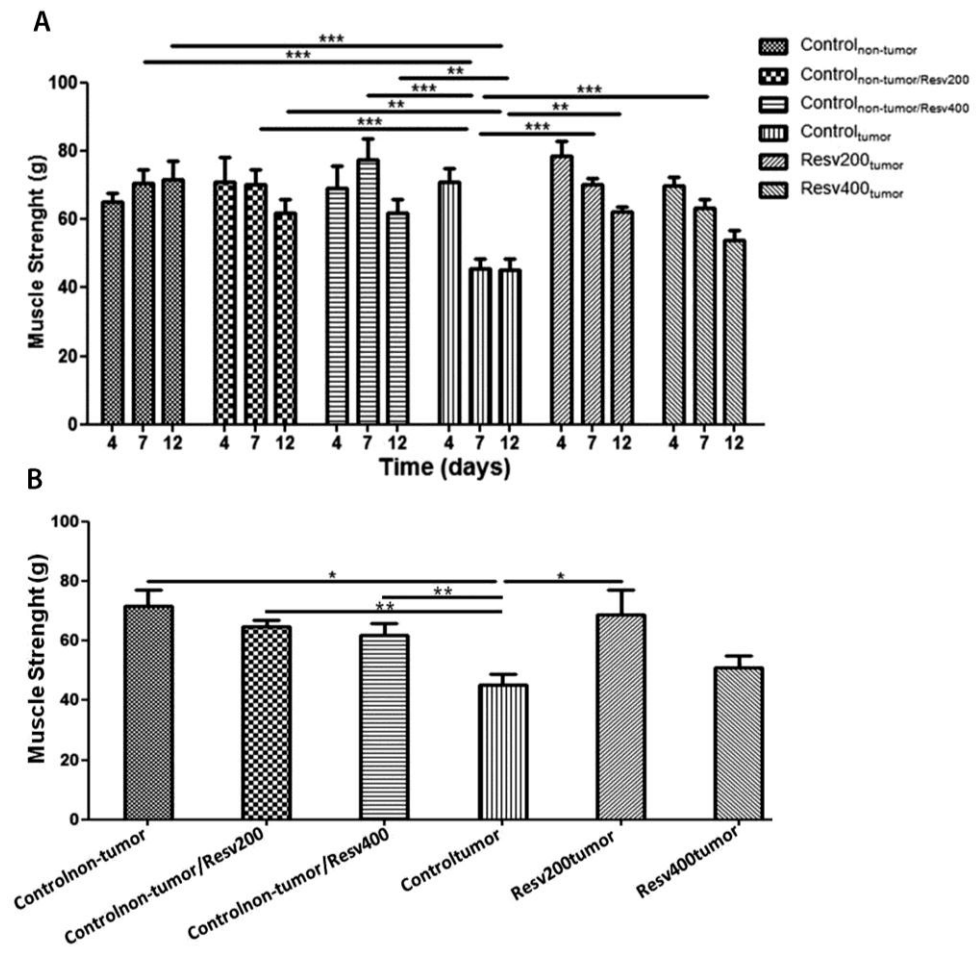


Figure 6.

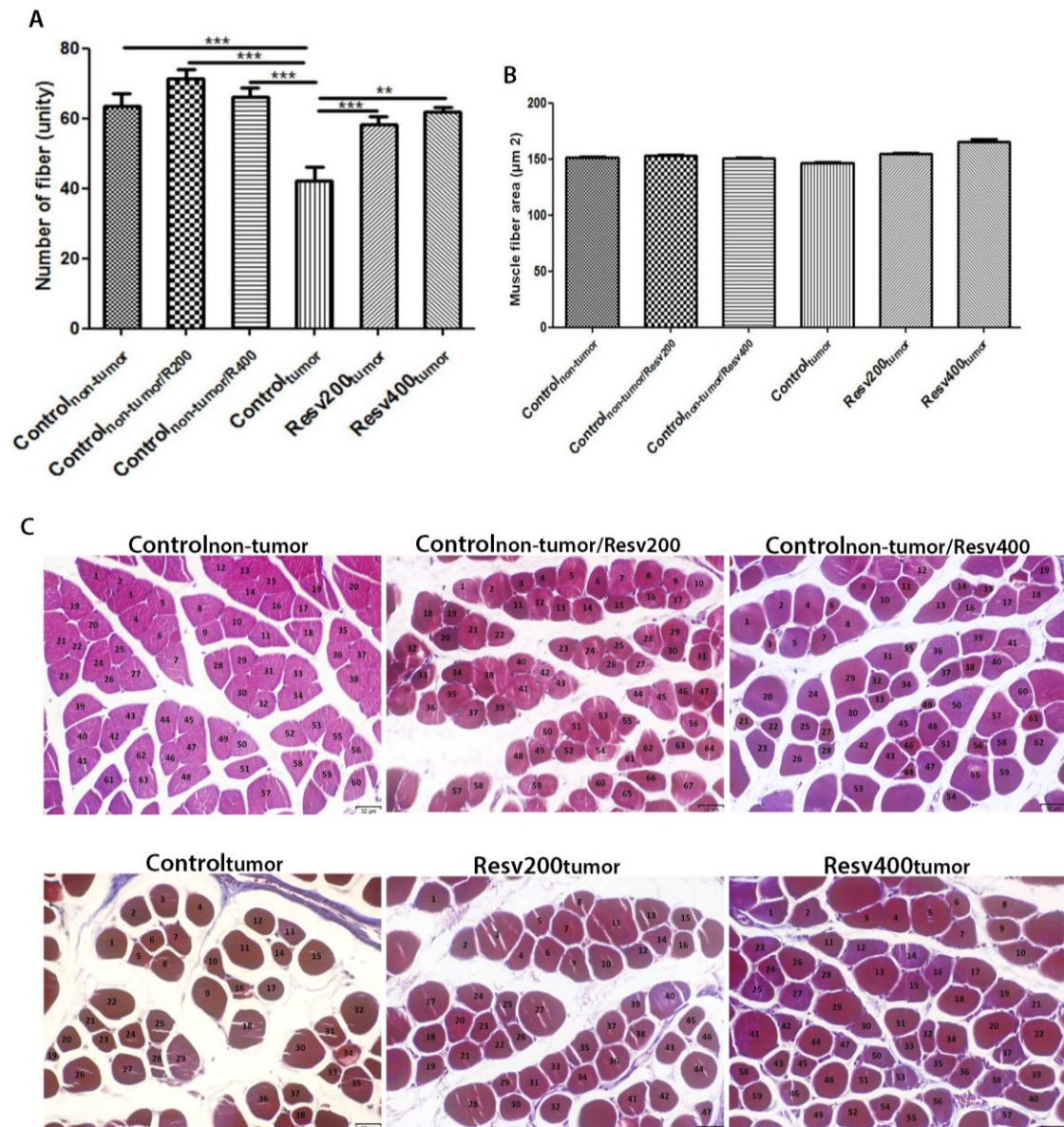


Figure 7.

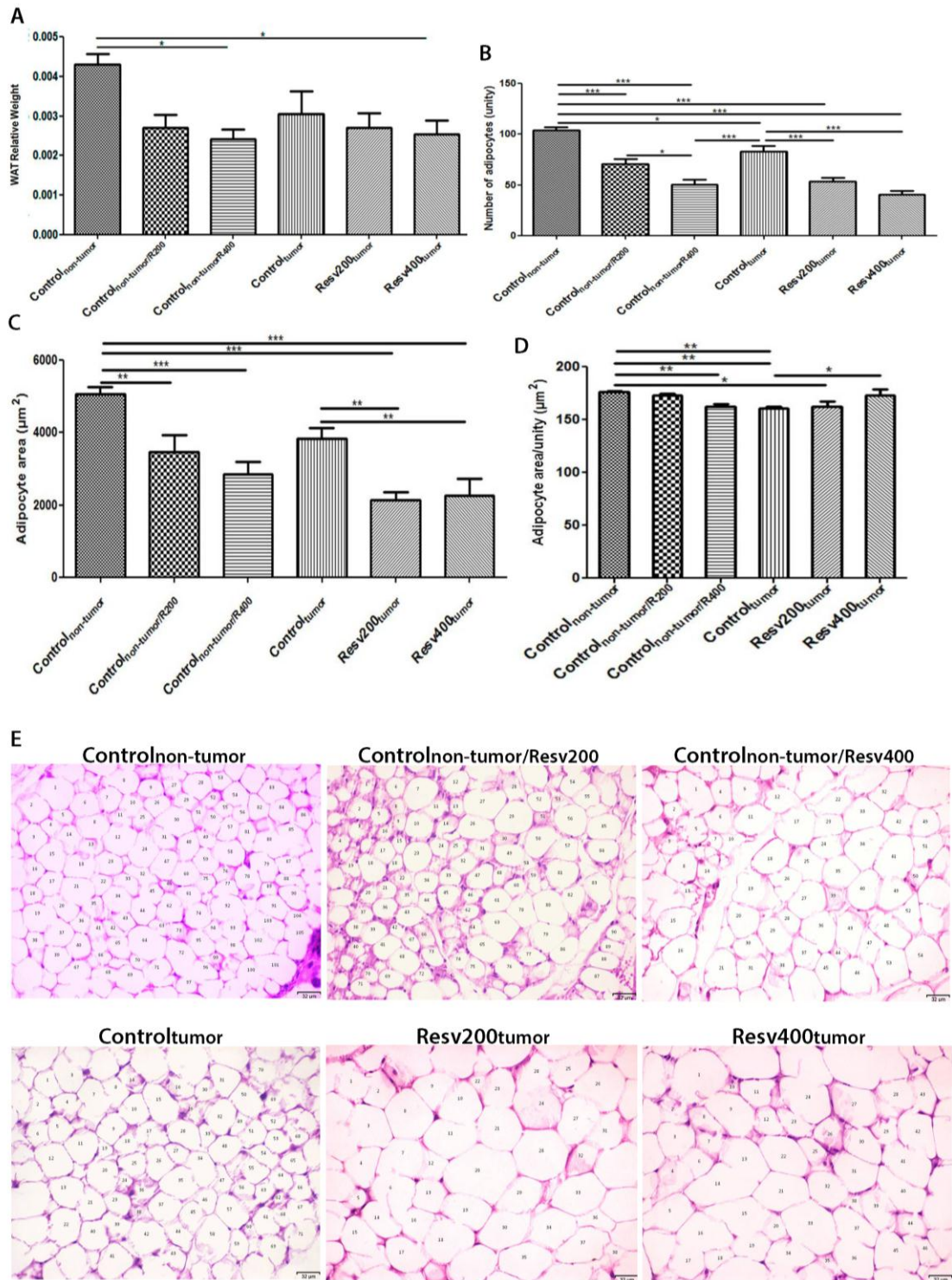


Figure 8.

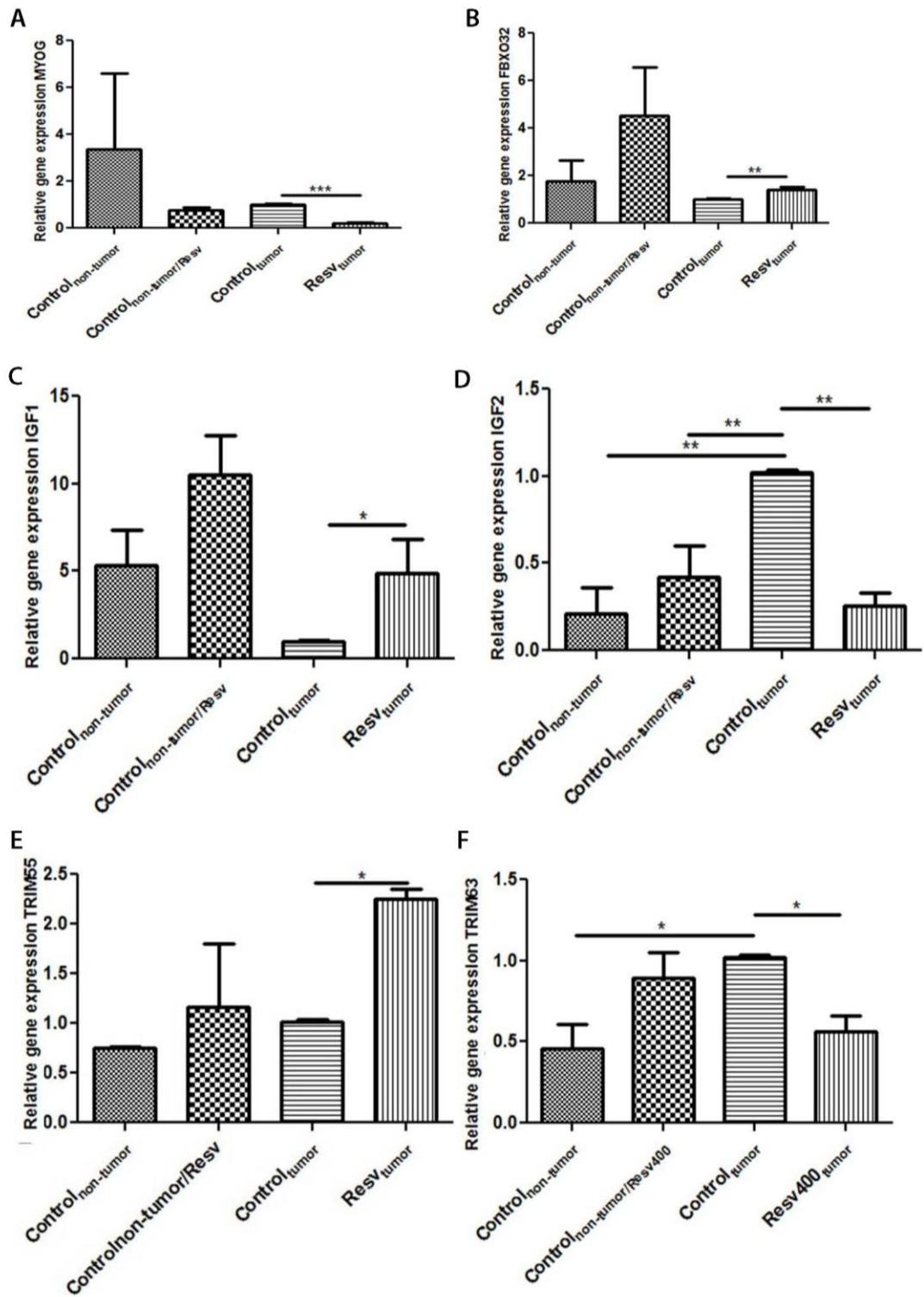


Figure 9.

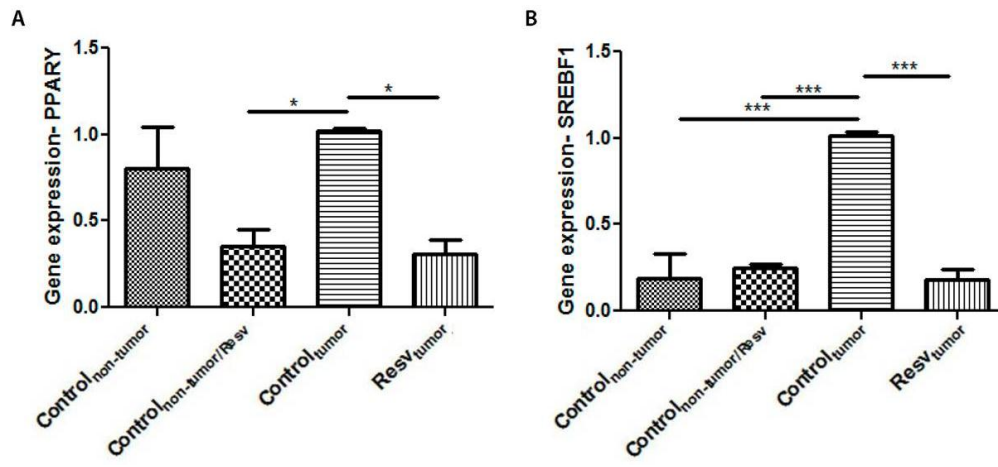
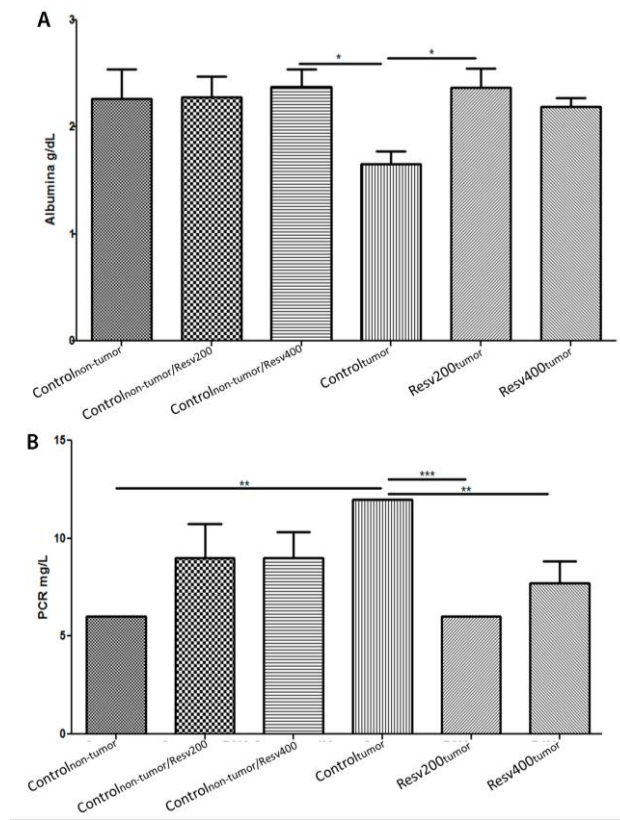




Figure 10



### Legends of Figures

Figure S1: Water (ml) and food (g) consumption measurements were daily performed.

Figure S2: linear equation of the correlation between weight and tumor volume.

Figure S1:

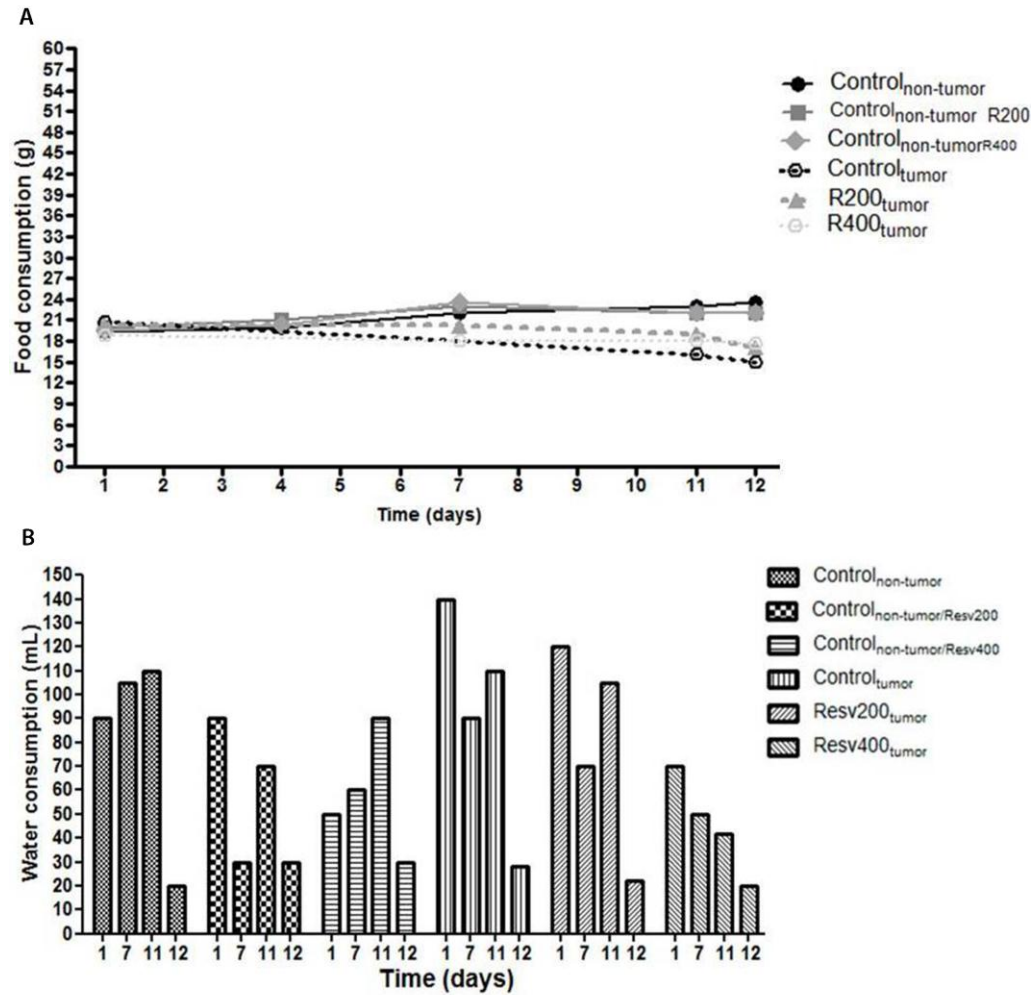
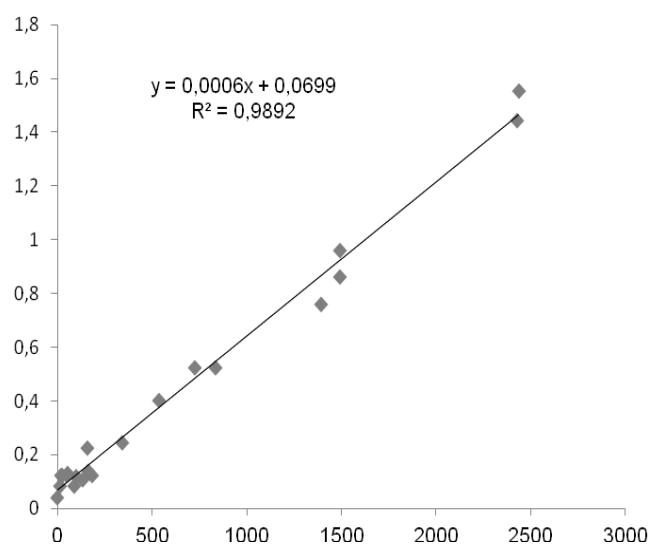


Figure S2:

#### 4 CONCLUSÕES

Os modelos de caquexia relacionados ao melanoma cutâneo são desenvolvidos pela inoculação subcutânea de células B16F10 em camundongos fêmeas C57BL/6. E o diagnóstico da caquexia é predominantemente definido pela monitoração do peso corporal dos animais, secundariamente, pelas medidas da massa muscular esquelética e da massa do tecido adiposo do epidídimo. A ação antiinflamatória dos agentes farmacológicos, intensifica o efeito anticaquético quando ocorre também redução do volume tumoral.

A administração de resveratrol promoveu significativos efeitos anticaquéticos em camundongos C57BL/6 com modelo de caquexia relacionado ao melanoma cutâneo, com resultante melhora da sobrevida dos animais.

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## ANEXOS

## ANEXO A – Parecer do Comitê de Ética e Pesquisa



UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE MONTES CLAROS  
 COMISSÃO DE ÉTICA EM EXPERIMENTAÇÃO E BEM-ESTAR ANIMAL 

PARECER CONSUBSTANCIADO

Montes Claros, 20 de fevereiro de 2017.

Processo N.º 131

**Título do Projeto:** EFEITOS DO EXERCÍCIO FÍSICO, DO RESVERATROL NO SISTEMA UBIQUINA-PROTEASSOMA, NO CRESCIMENTO TUMORAL, NA OCORRÊNCIA DE METÁSTASE E NA CAQUEXIA ASSOCIADA AO MODELO SINGÊNICO DE MELANOMA CUTÂNEO EM CAMUNDONGOS C57Bl/6.

**Orientador:** Prof. Dr. Alfredo Maurício Batista de Paula

**Histórico**

O melanoma humano representa um tipo de câncer que ocorre a partir de alterações moleculares genéticas e epigenética em melanócitos localizados nos revestimentos mucoso e cutâneo e em órgãos internos. O melanoma cutâneo (MC) apresenta altas taxas de prevalência e de incidência em várias populações em todo o mundo sendo, portanto, um importante problema de saúde pública mundial. Frequentemente, o MC apresenta altas taxas de morbidade e mortalidade devido à sua usual precocidade de disseminação metastática. Uma parcela importante dos pacientes com MC manifesta uma síndrome paraneoplásica conhecida como caquexia, caracterizada como uma progressiva consumação física decorrente principalmente de alterações do metabolismo proteico em fibras musculares esqueléticas. A caquexia promove um impacto significativamente negativo sobre a resposta terapêutica antineoplásica, a qualidade de vida e o tempo de sobrevida de indivíduos com câncer. Embora há muito reconhecida clinicamente, a caquexia associada ao câncer não responde às terapias atuais devido à complexidade dos distúrbios moleculares associadas a essa condição clínica.

**Mérito**

Avaliar os efeitos do exercício físico, do resveratrol no sistema ubiquinaproteassoma, no crescimento tumoral, na ocorrência de metástase e na caquexia associada ao modelo singênico de melanoma cutâneo em camundongos C57Bl/6.

Baseada nas Informações contidas no projeto e no Protocolo para uso de animais em Pesquisa o Projeto tem Mérito.

**Parecer**

A Comissão de Ética em Experimentação e Bem-Estar Animal da Unimontes analisou o processo 131 e entende que o mesmo está dentro das normas da Comissão Sendo assim, somos pela **APROVAÇÃO** do projeto de pesquisa.

  
**Prof. Orlando Raphael Lopes Junior**  
 Presidente da Comissão de Ética em Experimentação  
 e Bem-Estar Animal da UNIMONTES

## ANEXO B – Primeiro parecer do periódico Critical Reviews in Oncology/Hematology em relação ao produto 1

18/11/2018

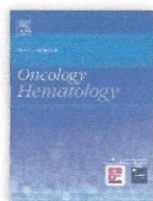
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Review Article | CROH\_2018\_329

#### Anticachectic Effects of Pharmacological Agents on Mouse Models of Cutaneous Melanoma-Related Cachexia: a Systematic Review.

alfredo de paula, Amanda Souto Machado, Amanda Rodrigues Santos, Andréia de Souza Brito, Erivelton Pereira Santos, João Lucas Rodrigues dos Santos, Ludmilla Souza, Magda Mendes Vieira, Marcos Vinícius Oliveira, OTAVIO Cardoso Filho, Renato Monteiro Junior

Submitted 19 Sep 2018

**Reviewer Invited** 10 Nov 2018 

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Ref: CROH\_2018\_329

Title: Anticachectic Effects of Pharmacological Agents on Mouse Models of Cutaneous Melanoma-Related Cachexia: a Systematic Review.

Journal: Critical Reviews in Oncology / Hematology

Dear Professor de paula,