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SYNTHESIS, DOCKING AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF NOVEL SERIES OF AZETIDINONE DERIVATIVES

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ABSTRACT

The present work is undertaken to explore more possibilities of finding β -lactam derivatives with enhanced anti-inflammatory activity. The scheme involves two steps. In the first step different Schiff bases are synthesized from 4-Amino antipyrine and six differently substituted aromatic aldehydes. In the second step, 2-azetidinone was synthesized by ketene-imine cyclization (Schrodinger) by adding chloroacetyl chloride. The lead compounds are docked against COX enzyme and it was calculated that the derivative AZ5 shows the best docking score which was compared with that of the *in-vivo* anti-inflammatory activity. It was found that the result of the anti-inflammatory activity correlated with the docking score of the concerned derivative.

KEYWORDS

2-azetidinone, 4-aminoantipyrine, Docking and Anti-inflammatory activity.

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INTRODUCTION¹⁻⁴

A β -lactam ring, is a four membered lactam. It is named as such, because the nitrogen atom is attached to the β -carbon atom relative to the carbonyl group. The simplest β -lactam possible is 2-azetidinone. 2-Azetidinones (Figure No.1) shows various biological activities such as antifungal, antibacterial, antitubercular, anticonvulsant, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and antiviral activity. It is also known for its potent mechanism based inhibitor of several enzymes like human tryptase, chymase, thrombin, leukocyte elastase, human cytomegalovirus protease and serine protease enzyme. The four membered hetero cyclic ring is well known for its anti-

inflammatory property. The present work is undertaken to explore more possibilities of finding β -lactam derivatives with enhanced anti-inflammatory activity. In the article, docking scores have also been reported and its results have been compared to the result obtained from *in-vivo* anti-inflammatory tests of the lead compounds, thus indicating the authenticity of the docking software.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Synthetic Scheme

The general scheme of the work includes two steps. The Schiff bases (Figure No.2) are synthesized from 4-Amino antipyrine with different aldehydes and then cyclized to give the azetidin-2-one derivatives (Figure No.3).

Experimental Work⁵⁻⁸

Preparation of Schiff Base

Conventional method

0.01mol (2.03g) of 4- Amino antipyrine was dissolved in 30ml ethanol containing few drops of glacial acetic acid. Different substituted benzaldehydes (0.01mol) was added to the reaction mixture and refluxed for 3-5 hours. It was then cooled and poured into crushed ice. The solid obtained was filtered, dried and recrystallized with ethanol.

Preparation of Azetidinone

Conventional method

To a well stirred solution of the synthesized Schiff base, 0.01mol and triethylamine (1ml) in 1,4-dioxan (50ml), chloroacetyl chloride (0.01 mol, 0.8ml) was added dropwise for 20min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred for 3 hours and left at room temperature for 48 hours. The resultant mixture was concentrated, cooled and poured into ice-cold water. The azetidinones formed were dried and recrystallized from 1, 4-dioxan and ethanol mixture (3:2).

Docking Studies⁹⁻¹²

Molecular docking using Schrodinger

Computational studies of the newer derivatives were performed using Schrodinger software. The target site for the study of anti-inflammatory activity of the azetidinone derivatives was selected from the PDB.

The PDB Id is 3LN1. It is a COX enzyme with Celecoxib as the ligand. The resolutions and other criteria's were checked and confirmed.

The sample structures were uploaded manually into the Maestro Project table. The protein was downloaded from the PDB into the work space. The preparation for the ligands and the protein were done using 'LigPrep' and 'Protein Preparation Wizard' respectively. The chain A of the protein was maintained along with interactive water molecules. The different conformations of the ligands were designed and the best pose of the molecules were selected.

Then the receptor grid was generated using the option 'Receptor Grid Generation'. Now that the target site was identified the natural ligand was replaced with the input structures (sample ligands) automatically by the software for getting the docking scores. This was performed by 'GLIDE' using the option 'Ligand Docking' from the toolbar.

The job was monitored periodically and the results were obtained in the project table.

Anti- Inflammatory Activity¹³⁻¹⁷

Carrageenan induced rat paw edema method

The synthesized compound, AZ₅ was tested for their anti-inflammatory activity by using carrageenan induced rat paw edema method in albino rat (200-225g). The 1% w/v solution of carrageenan for injection was prepared in normal saline (0.9%) and 0.1ml was injected underneath plantar region. The standard drug and synthesized compound were administered in animals by oral route feeding tube through tuberculin syringe. The stock suspensions of the standard and synthesized compound were prepared in concentration of 10 mg/ml of 2% w/v CMC in distilled water. The test compound was given in two doses 50mg/kg and 100mg/kg. The percentage edema inhibition shown by the test and standard compounds at time interval of 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 hours was measured.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physical Characterization of the Synthesized Compounds

The molecular formulas, molecular weights, melting

point, R_f value and color of the synthesized compounds are tabulated in Table No.1.

Molecular Docking Studies

Molecular docking using Schrodinger

Computational studies of the newer derivatives were performed using Schrodinger software. The target site for the study of anti-inflammatory activity of the azetidinone derivatives was selected from the PDB. The PDB Id is 3LN1. It is a COX enzyme with Celecoxib as the ligand. The resolutions and other criteria's were checked and confirmed.

The binding affinities of the synthesized derivatives for their anti-inflammatory activity with COX-2 enzyme were determined using Schrodinger software. The docking scores and other interactive parameters are tabulated in Table No.2. The ligand interactions and the best mode of the molecule for

binding with the protein are given in the Figures No.4.1 to 4.6.

Anti- Inflammatory Activity

The synthesized azetidinone derivative (AZ₅) and the standard drug (Ibuprofen) were tested for their anti-inflammatory activity by using Carrageenan induced rat paw edema method in Albino rats (200-225g). The results are given in Table No.3 and are depicted in Figure No.5.

The percentage edema was calculated using the formula,

$$V_c - V_t / V_c \times 100$$

Where

V_c and V_t are the mean edema volume of the control and the test group respectively.

Table No.1: Physical Property Data of Schiff Bases and Azetidinone Derivatives

| S.No | Compound | Mol. Formula | Mol. Weight | Melting point (°C) | R_f value | Color |
|------|-----------------|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | SB ₁ | C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₃ OCl | 343.85 | 158-160 | 0.60 | Light Yellow |
| 2 | SB ₂ | C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₄ O ₃ | 354.40 | 170-172 | 0.59 | Orange |
| 3 | SB ₃ | C ₂₂ H ₂₉ N ₃ O ₄ | 399.48 | 160-162 | 0.61 | Yellow |
| 4 | SB ₄ | C ₂₀ H ₂₅ N ₃ O ₃ | 355.43 | 170-172 | 0.70 | Brown |
| 5 | SB ₅ | C ₁₉ H ₂₃ N ₃ O ₂ | 325.40 | 164-166 | 0.65 | Light Brown |
| 6 | AZ ₁ | C ₂₀ H ₁₉ N ₃ O ₂ Cl ₂ | 404.30 | 176-178 | 0.62 | Pale Yellow |
| 7 | AZ ₂ | C ₂₀ H ₁₉ N ₄ O ₄ Cl | 414.85 | 202-204 | 0.57 | Cream |
| 8 | AZ ₃ | C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₃ O ₅ Cl | 459.93 | 180-182 | 0.72 | White |
| 9 | AZ ₄ | C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₃ O ₄ Cl | 415.88 | 190-192 | 0.51 | White |
| 10 | AZ ₅ | C ₁₈ H ₁₈ N ₃ O ₃ Cl | 385.85 | 198-200 | 0.54 | White |

Table No.2: Docking Score of the Compounds against Cox -1 Enzyme

| S.No | Ligand | Dock score |
|------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | AZ ₁ | -5.24 |
| 2 | AZ ₂ | -6.03 |
| 3 | AZ ₃ | -6.59 |
| 4 | AZ ₄ | -6.67 |
| 5 | AZ ₅ | -6.79 |

Table No.3: Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Compound Az₅

| S.No | Compound | Body Weight | Mean Swelling Volume (ml) | % inhibition of edema |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Control | 210 | 0.80 | -- |
| 2 | Ibuprofen | 220 | 0.30 | 62.50 |
| 3 | AZ ₅ (50μg) | 210 | 0.35 | 56.25 |
| 4 | AZ ₅ (100μg) | 220 | 0.32 | 60.00 |

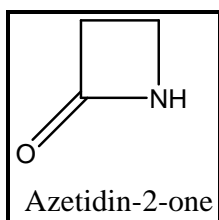


Figure No.1: Structure of 2-azetidinone

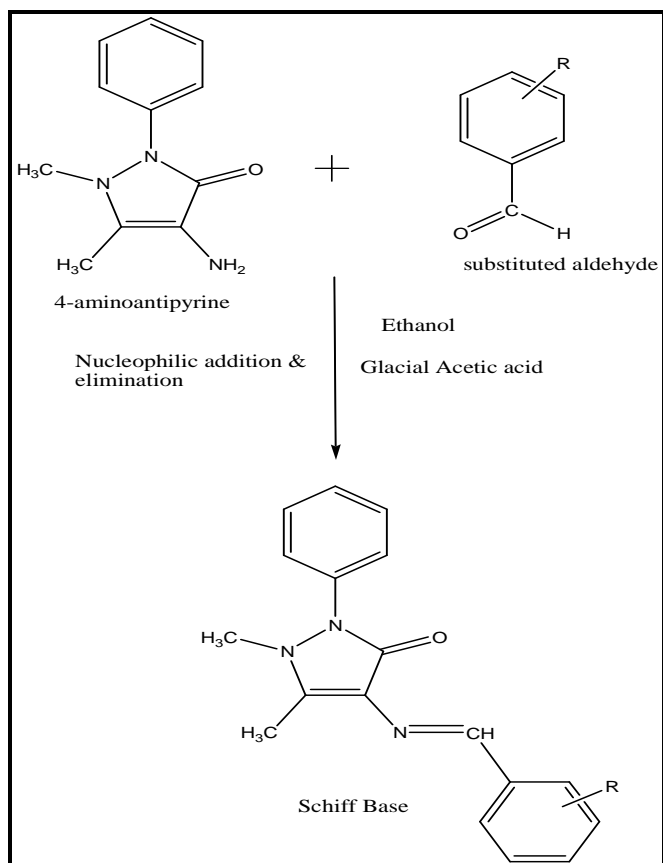


Figure No.2: Synthesis of Schiff bases

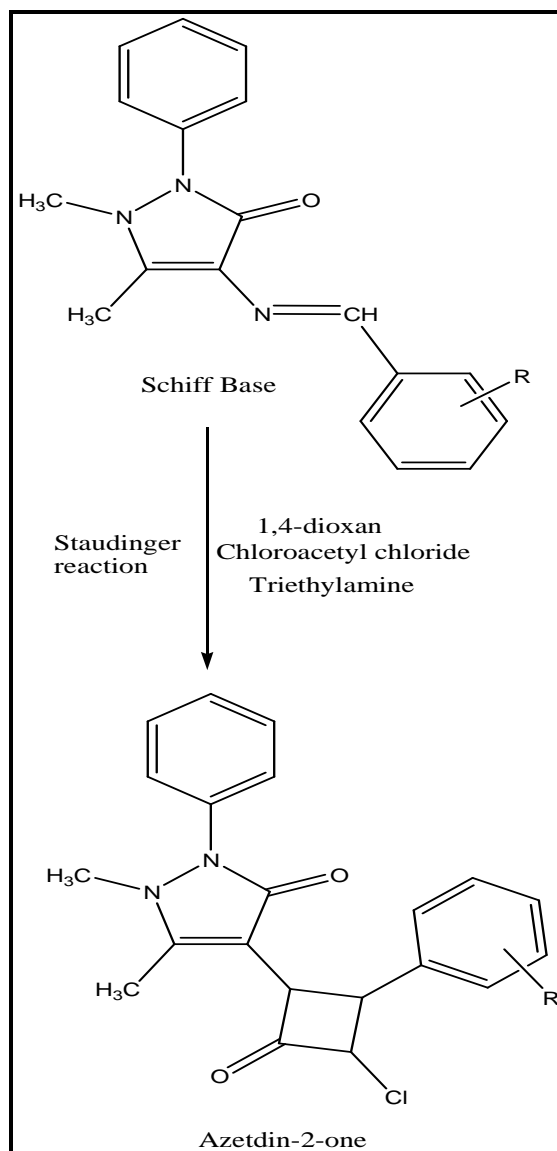


Figure No.3: Synthesis of Azetidinones

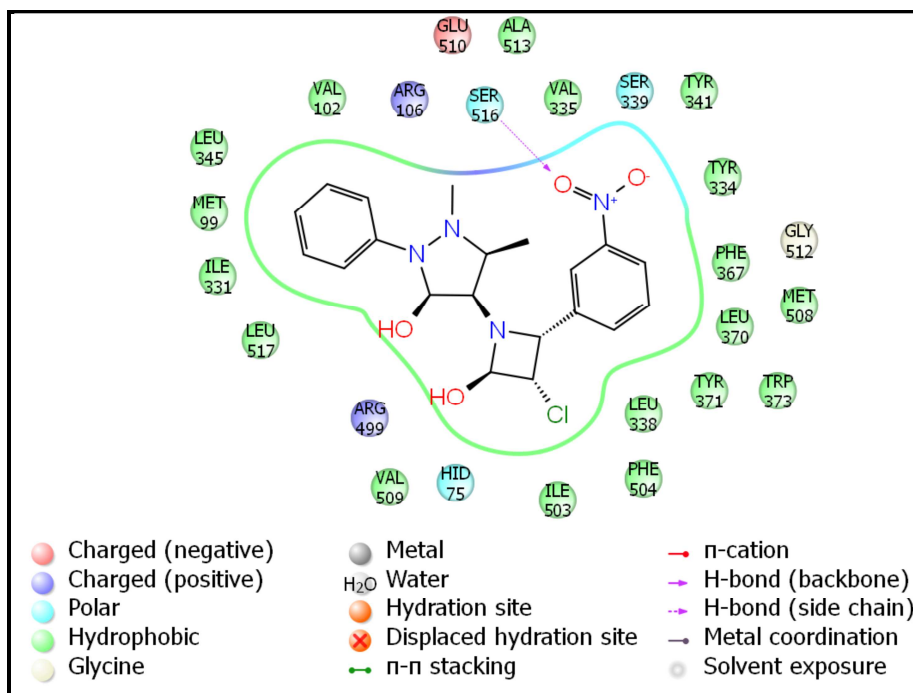


Figure No.4.1: Interactions of AZ1

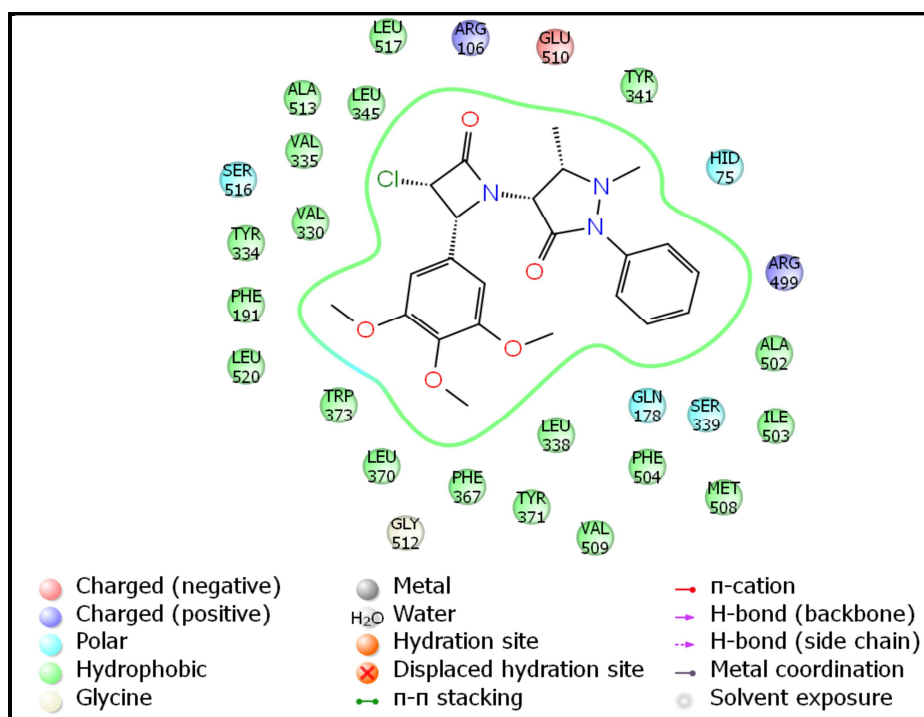


Figure No.4.2: Interactions of AZ2

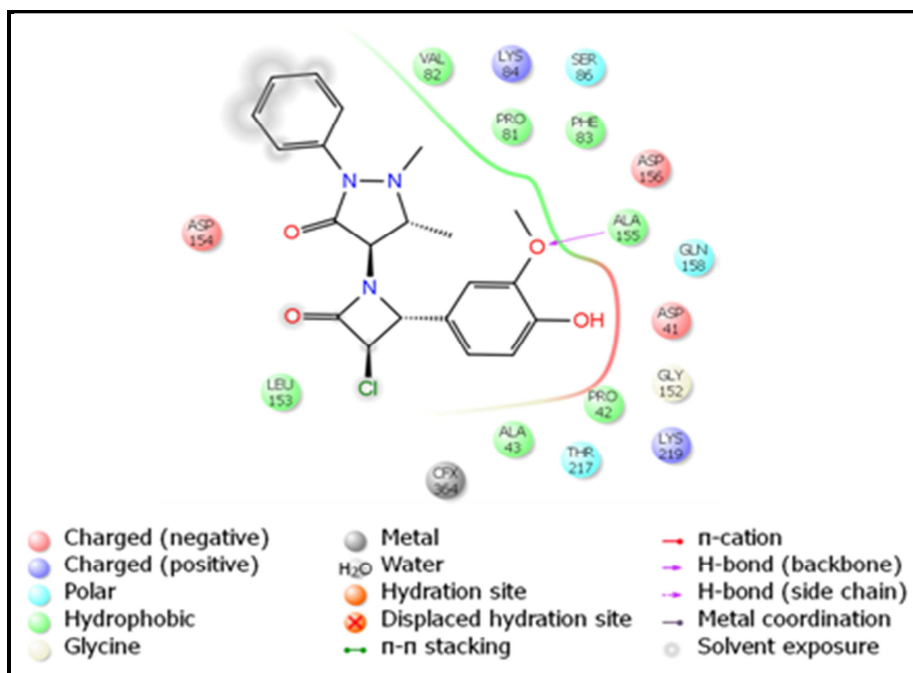


Figure No.4.3: Interactions of AZ3

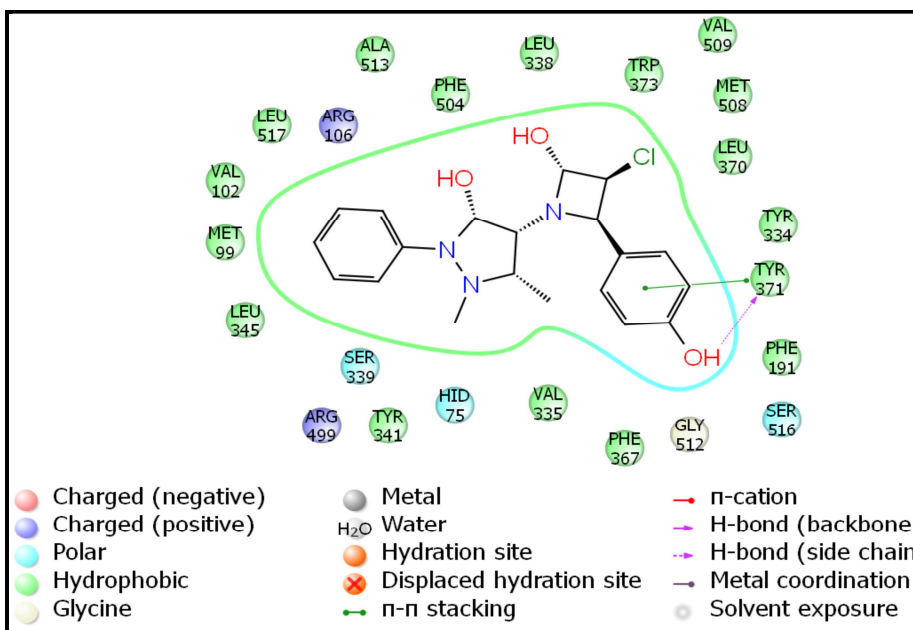


Figure No.4.4: Interactions of AZ4

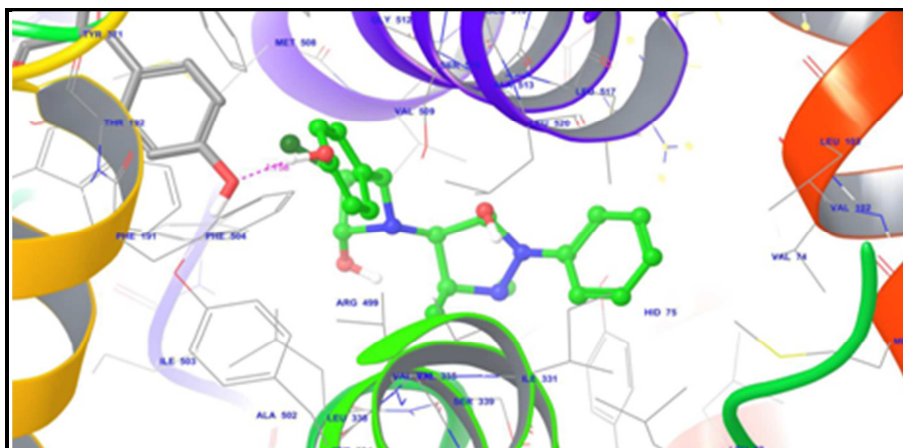


Figure No.4.5: Mode of Docking

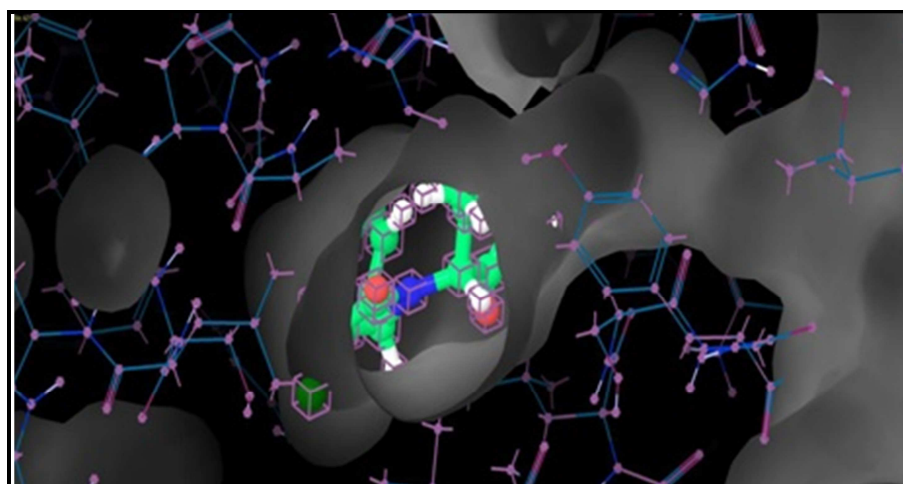


Figure No.4.6: Mode of Docking

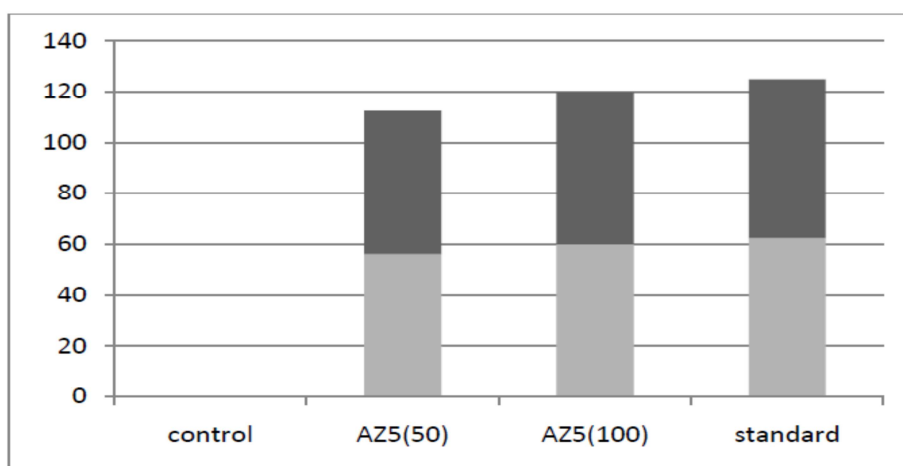


Figure No.5: Chart of anti-inflammatory activity

CONCLUSION

In the first step different Schiff bases are synthesized from 4-Amino antipyrine and six differently substituted aromatic aldehydes. In the second step, 2-azetidinone was synthesized by ketene-imine cyclization (Staudinger) by adding chloroacetyl chloride. The percentage yields of all the synthesized compounds were 50-70%. The Rf values and melting points confirm the purity of the compounds synthesized. The docking study for the anti-inflammatory activity against COX-2 was done using Schrodinger software. The possible ligand interactions and the binding ability of the derivatives were predicted. The software provided the best possible mode of binding and the possible interactions. The reports shows that the derivative AZ₅ has the best binding capability and also that all the derivatives have almost equal range of activity. The compound AZ₅ at a dose of 50µg/ml shows 56.25% anti-inflammatory activity and at a dose of 100µg/ml shows 60.00 % anti-inflammatory activity. On the other hand, Ibuprofen at the standard dose shows 62.50 % anti-inflammatory activity. This shows that the compound AZ₅ shows anti-inflammatory activity comparable to that of the standard. The reports of the docking studies are well correlated with screened anti-inflammatory activity. Docking score calculated for AZ₅ with COX-1 enzyme was -6.79 and as reported by the docking scores, the compound AZ₅ shows good anti-inflammatory activity.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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