

# Blushwood berry extracts in cancer prevention: A promising future?

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TLDR Chemical extracts from the berries of Australian blushwood tree (*Hylandia dockrillii*) have shown to be effective in treating cancers such as melanoma and breast cancer and scientists have developed a drug named EBC-46 from the compound extracts of blushwood berries which are said to have anticancer properties.

**Abstract** This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in the credit line; if the material is not included under the Creative Commons license, users will need to obtain permission from the license holder to reproduce the material. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> © Nandini DB, Rao RS, Deepak BS. 2018 Chemical extracts from the berries of Australian blushwood tree (*Hylandia dockrillii*) have shown to be effective in treating cancers such as melanoma and breast cancer. Blushwood berry trees are said to be exclusively seen in the rainforests of Far North Queensland, Australia. However, attempts to grow them in a greenhouse environment are being done. [1] Scientists have developed a drug named EBC-46 from the compound extracts of blushwood berries which are said to have anticancer properties.[1] Researchers say that the preparation of the drug is a complex technique and human trials are currently being performed. The anticancer effects of this berry were first reported in 2004.[2] Dr. Glen Boyle and his team from QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Queensland commented that the drug was effective in the tumor reduction within few hours after its direct injection in terminally ill animal models such as mice, dogs, cats, and horses. [3] The tumor turned dark and fell off. It is believed that the drug acts directly, deprives the cancer cells off their oxygen supply, and also activates the host immune response. Cancer cells revealed shriveling, shrinking, and cell death microscopically shortly after exposure to the drug. EBC-46 activates an enzyme called protein kinase C; however, mechanism involved is still uncertain. Nearly 75% of preclinical trials revealed promising results with very little relapse in 1-year follow-up period and no side effects. The drug was tested in easily accessible tumors; however, its role in metastatic tumors is yet to be ascertained. Phase 1 clinical human trials in cutaneous solid tumors such as melanoma squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), head and neck SCC, basal cell carcinoma, and Merkel cell carcinoma are underway.[3] EBC-46 is a patented chemotherapeutic drug.[2] D. B. Nandini<sup>1</sup>, Roopa S. Rao<sup>2</sup>, B. S. Deepak<sup>3</sup>

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