

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Synthesis of 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols and evaluation of the cytotoxicities of the compounds against human hepatoma and breast cancer cell lines

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## Abstract

Some 4-piperidinol derivatives were synthesized and their cytotoxicity was tested against human hepatoma (Huh7) and breast cancer (T47D) cells. Aryl part was changed as phenyl in **2a**, 4-methylphenyl in **2b**, 4-methoxyphenyl in **2c**, 4-chlorophenyl in **2d**, 4-fluorophenyl in **2e**, 4-bromophenyl in **2f**, 4-nitrophenyl in **2g** and 2-thienyl in **3**. Compounds were synthesized and reported for the first time by this study except **2a** and **2d**. Chemical structures were confirmed by <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, IR, MS and elemental analyses. Compounds **2a** (3.1 times), **2c** (3.8 times), **2f** (4.6 times), **2g** (1.3 times) and **3** (3.2 times) had 1.3–4.6 times higher cytotoxic potency than the reference compound 5-FU against Huh7 cell line while all the compounds synthesized had shown lower activities against T47D cell line than 5-FU. In the light of these results, compounds **2a**, **2c**, **2f**, **2g** and **3** may serve as model compounds for further studies.

## Keywords

Cytotoxicity, Huh7 cells, isopropylamine, Mannich bases, T47D cells

## History

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## Introduction

Today, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women and is one of the five common cancers. In the treatment of breast cancer, chemotherapy, endocrine and radiation therapy, and surgery are used in general but emergence of side effects of cytotoxic chemotherapeutics and drug resistance to these drugs are often problems in the course of therapy<sup>1</sup>. Similarly, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the fifth most common and the third most deadly cancer disease worldwide<sup>2</sup>. For most patients with HCC, surgery is the only curative treatment procedure because HCC cells have high resistance to the chemotherapeutic agents<sup>3</sup>. In the light of these information mentioned above, novel approaches and cytotoxic agents are urgently needed in the treatment of breast cancer and HCC.

Mannich bases are compounds that attract the attention of researchers. According to the studies carried out, the following activities of Mannich bases have been identified: anticancer<sup>4</sup>, cytotoxic<sup>5–13</sup>, anti-inflammatory<sup>14–16</sup>, anticonvulsant<sup>17,18</sup> and antifungal<sup>19,20</sup>. Their cytotoxic activities were attributed to the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone, which is available in the chemical structure of the compound or to the product produced by deamination process *in vivo* or under simulated conditions *in vitro*<sup>7,21,22</sup>.

4-Piperidinol derivatives have been investigated for their biological activities especially in the last decade. Anti-tuberculosis<sup>23</sup>, anti-inflammatory<sup>24</sup>, H<sub>3</sub> antagonist<sup>25</sup>, sodium and calcium channel blocker<sup>26</sup>, anti-leukemia<sup>27</sup>, estrogen receptor modulator<sup>28</sup>, liver glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor<sup>29</sup>, map kinase inhibitor<sup>30</sup> and dopamine D<sub>2</sub> receptor antagonist<sup>31,32</sup> activities were reported in the literatures. Since Mannich bases were known with their remarkable cytotoxic activities in literature<sup>4,13,33</sup>, it could be useful to synthesize new chemicals having Mannich base structure for the solution of the problems mentioned above such as breast and liver cancers.

It is an advantage and a good starting point that the cytotoxicities of mono-Mannich bases namely 1-aryl-3-isopropylamino-1-propanone hydrochlorides against Huh7 and T47D cell lines were reported in our previous study<sup>13</sup>. It is possible to find new chemical structures which can be drug candidates by the synthesis and investigation of the cytotoxic activities of semi-cyclic mono-Mannich bases having piperidine structure namely 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols. Furthermore, it is also possible to observe the alterations in cytotoxicity depending on chemical structures by comparing the cytotoxicities of the compounds reported here with mono-Mannich bases reported in our previous study<sup>13</sup>. Semi-cyclic mono-Mannich bases (piperidines) reported here are non-classic bioisosters of mono-Mannich bases reported before<sup>13</sup>. In addition, there are not any research about cytotoxic activity of 4-piperidinol derivatives on breast cancer and HCC in the literature.

The aims of this study were to synthesize 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols and evaluate their cytotoxicity against human hepatoma and breast cancer cell lines.

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## Experimental

### Chemistry

Chemicals used in synthesis of the compounds in this study were as follows: acetophenone, 4'-methylacetophenone, 4'-nitroacetophenone, 4'-chloroacetophenone, 2-acetylthiophene (Fluka, Steinheim, Switzerland), 4'-methoxyacetophenone, 4'-fluoroacetophenone, 4'-bromoacetophenone, paraformaldehyde (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), methanol (J.T. Baker, Deventer, Holland) and diethyl ether (Fluka, Steinheim, Switzerland). The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra were recorded at 400 (100) MHz on a Varian Mercury Plus spectrometer (Varian, Palo Alto, CA). Electron ionization mass spectrometry (EI-MS) spectra were recorded on a Thermo-Finnigan's mass analyzer (Thermo-Finnigan LLC, San Jose, CA). Infrared spectra were obtained for KBr disks on a Mattson 1000 FT-IR (Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy) spectrophotometer (Mattson Instruments, Cambridge, UK). Elemental analyses were carried out with a LECO's CHNS-932 instrument (LECO Corporation, St. Joseph, MI). Melting points were determined on a BUCHI 530 (Büchi Labortechnik AG, Flawil, Switzerland).

### Synthesis

The mixture of suitable ketone, paraformaldehyde and isopropylamine hydrochloride in 2:2:1 mole ratios was stirred and heated without solvent in an oil bath. Mono-Mannich bases type, namely 1-aryl-3-isopropylamino-1-propanone hydrochloride, and piperidinol type compounds, which are a semi-cyclic mono-Mannich base namely 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinol hydrochlorides were produced in the reaction medium at the same time. Corresponding mono-Mannich bases were removed from the reaction medium to obtain piperidinol type compounds **2a–2g** and **3** synthesized in this study. To obtain piperidinols, 5% sodium hydroxide solution was added to the residue. The reaction content was stirred in water bath at 40 °C. The reaction content, which had fat emulsion view initially, was stirred until a solidification observed (24–96 h), except compound **2c**. In the synthesis of compound **2c**, any solidification was not observed at the end of period of time. The residue of **2c** was filtered on the column containing basic  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  using ethanol as the solvent. The crude compounds of **2a**, **2b** and **2d** were crystallized from methanol; **2e**, **2f** and **2g** were crystallized from chloroform and hexane; **2c** and **3** were crystallized from methanol and diethyl ether. The elemental analysis results of the compounds **2c**, **2f** and **2g** were consistent with the hydrochloride salts of the compounds and were within the acceptable limits according to elemental analysis results although 5% sodium hydroxide had been used during the reaction process.

### Determination of the cytotoxic activity of the compounds synthesized against human hepatoma cell line<sup>34</sup> and human breast cancer cell line (T47D)

Chemicals were tested with (National Cancer Institute, NCI) anticancer drug screening method<sup>34</sup>. Human hepatoma cells (Huh7 cells) (5000 or 10000 cells) were inoculated into 96-well microtiter plates in 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of standard medium 24 h prior to treatment with inhibitors (compounds). Compounds with various (40–2.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) concentrations were applied in additional 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of cell culture medium. After 72 h of treatment with compounds, cells were fixed by gentle addition of 50  $\mu\text{L}$  of cold 50% (w/v) TCA for 60 min at 4 °C. After fixation, cell culture medium is discarded and washed with distilled water and dried in air. Then, 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.4% sulforhodamine B (SRB) solution were applied to each well and incubated for 10 min at room temperature. Extra unbound dye were washed five times with 200  $\mu\text{L}$  1% acetic acid

and air-dried. SRB dye, which was bound to cellular proteins, solubilized adding 200  $\mu\text{L}$ –10 mM Tris–Base solution and the absorbance was acquired at 515 nm, then  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values were calculated as described<sup>34</sup>. The figures given were the average of the two independent determinations, which differed by <10%.

#### 3-Benzoyl-4-phenyl-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol **2a**

M.p. 123–124 °C. Yield: 26%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR [400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , parts per million (ppm)]  $\delta$  = 7.87 (br d, 2H, H-2'/6',  $J$  = 7.3 Hz), 7.54 (t, 1H, H-4',  $J$  = 7.3 Hz), 7.51 (d, 2H, H-2''/6'',  $J$  = 7.7 Hz), 7.41 (t, 2H, H-3'/5',  $J$  = 7.7 Hz), 7.23 (t, 2H, H-3''/5'',  $J$  = 7.7 Hz), 7.11 (t, 1H, H-4'',  $J$  = 7.3 Hz), 5.15 (d, 1H, OH,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz), 4.35 (dd, 1H, H-3,  $J$  = 11.0, 2.9 Hz), 2.96–2.77 [m, 5H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ , 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.06–2.00 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.84 [br d, 1H, H-5(b),  $J$  = 13.9 Hz], 1.10 [d, 6H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz];  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 204.9, 147.6, 136.2, 134.1, 129.0, 128.6, 128.5, 126.9, 124.8, 73.6, 55.0, 51.3, 48.8, 44.6, 40.4, 18.8, 18.6; MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  324 ( $M$  + 1, 63), 280 (18), 235 (3), 203 (90), 186 (41), 160 (18), 105 (100), 77 (70%); IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3453, 3059, 2964, 2831, 1660, 1596, 1578, 1492, 1469, 1447, 1384, 1361, 1335, 1273, 1206, 1172, 1132, 1103, 1068, 1052, 1014, 1001, 958, 899, 759, 709. Calculated for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_2$  (323.43): C, 77.98; H, 7.79; N, 4.33. Found: C, 77.81; H, 8.14; N, 4.38.

#### 3-(*p*-Methylbenzoyl)-4-(*p*-methylphenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol **2b**

M.p. 141–142 °C. Yield: 20%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 7.80 (d, 2H, H-2'/6',  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.38 (d, 2H, H-2''/6'',  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.22 (d, 2H, H-3'/5',  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 7.03 (d, 2H, H-3''/5'',  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 5.21 (d, 1H, OH,  $J$  = 2.9 Hz), 4.30 (dd, 1H, H-3,  $J$  = 11.2, 3.9 Hz), 2.93–2.75 (m, 5H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ , 2XH-2, 2XH-6), 2.38 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.22 (s, 3H,  $\text{CH}_3$ ), 2.03–1.94 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.81 [br d, 1H, H-5(b),  $J$  = 13.6 Hz], 1.09 [d, 6H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz];  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 204.5, 145.1, 144.8, 136.4, 133.8, 129.7, 129.2, 128.8, 124.7, 73.5, 54.9, 50.9, 48.9, 44.7, 40.7, 21.9, 21.1, 18.8, 18.6; MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  351 ( $M^+$ , 1), 308 (7), 217 (6), 200 (8), 190 (6), 163 (8), 146 (11), 131 (5), 119 (100), 105 (8), 91 (56), 89 (7), 82 (5), 71 (10), 64 (17), 56 (19%); IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3449, 3025, 2964, 2921, 2831, 1658, 1605, 1570, 1512, 1458, 1407, 1384, 1361, 1333, 1302, 1273, 1258, 1203, 1178, 1071, 1014, 1002, 957, 902, 811, 738. Calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{29}\text{NO}_2$  (351.48): C, 78.59; H, 8.32; N, 3.99. Found: C, 78.10; H, 8.59; N, 3.99.

#### 3-(*p*-Methoxybenzoyl)-4-(*p*-methoxyphenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol hydrochloride **2c**

Yellow oil. Yield: 40%.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 7.87 (br d, 2H, H-2'/6',  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 7.39 (br d, 2H, H-2''/6'',  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 6.88 (br d, 2H, H-3'/5',  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 6.75 (br d, 2H, H-3''/5'',  $J$  = 9.0 Hz), 5.30 (d, 1H, OH,  $J$  = 2.6 Hz), 4.24 (dd, 1H, H-3,  $J$  = 10.8, 3.9 Hz), 3.84 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 3.70 (s, 3H,  $\text{OCH}_3$ ), 2.91–2.78 [m, 5H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ , 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.09–1.90 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.80 [br d, 1H, H-5(b),  $J$  = 13.9 Hz], 1.09 [d, 6H,  $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $J$  = 6.6 Hz];  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , ppm)  $\delta$  = 203.3, 164.4, 158.4, 140.0, 131.0, 129.3, 126.0, 114.2, 113.7, 73.3, 55.7, 55.3, 54.9, 50.7, 49.0, 44.7, 40.6, 18.8, 18.6; MS (EI, 70 eV):  $m/z$  383 ( $M^+$ , 1), 162 (34), 135 (100), 119 (2), 107 (11), 92 (8), 77 (16), 64 (6%); IR (KBr,  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 3434, 2962, 2839, 2670, 2578, 2462, 2049, 1981, 1909, 1780, 1667, 1660, 1651, 1600, 1574, 1514, 1463, 1456, 1423, 1384, 1306, 1259, 1232, 1174, 1119, 1071, 1031, 999, 972, 842, 759. Calculated for  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClNO}_4$  (419.94): C, 65.78; H, 7.20; N, 3.34. Found: C, 65.46; H, 7.29; N, 3.36.

**3-(p-Chlorobenzoyl)-4-(p-chlorophenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol 2d**

M.p. 135–137 °C. Yield: 16%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 7.80 (d, 2H, H-2'/6', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.40 (d, 4H, H-3'/5', H-2''/6'', *J* = 7.7 Hz), 7.19 (d, 2H, H-3''/5'', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 5.06 (d, 1H, OH, *J* = 2.2 Hz), 4.24 (dd, 1H, H-3, *J* = 10.6, 3.3 Hz), 2.90–2.75 [m, 5H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 1.99–1.92 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.79 [br d, 1H, H-5(b), *J* = 13.9 Hz], 1.09 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 1.08 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 203.4, 146.0, 141.0, 134.3, 132.9, 129.9, 129.5, 128.7, 126.3, 73.4, 55.0, 51.2, 48.8, 44.3, 40.3, 18.8, 18.4; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 392 (M+1, 8), 348 (4), 303 (2), 252 (2), 238 (21), 226 (87), 210 (40), 194 (8), 182 (14), 167 (20), 149 (4), 139 (37), 111 (100), 98 (12), 85 (7), 72 (69), 56 (93%); IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3455, 2965, 2831, 1662, 1588, 1569, 1489, 1469, 1401, 1384, 1362, 1308, 1272, 1204, 1172, 1093, 1011, 979, 900, 841, 827. Calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (392.32): C, 64.29; H, 5.91; N, 3.57. Found: C, 63.05; H, 5.85; N, 3.58.

**3-(p-Fluorobenzoyl)-4-(p-fluorophenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol 2e**

M.p. 113–115 °C. Yield: 24%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 7.89 (dd, H-2'/6', 2H, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>H,F</sub> = 5.3 Hz), 7.43 (dd, 2H, H-2''/6'', <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = 8.6 Hz, <sup>4</sup>*J*<sub>H,F</sub> = 5.3 Hz), 7.09 (t, 2H, H-3'/5', <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,F</sub> = 8.6 Hz), 6.90 (t, 2H, H-3''/5'', <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,H</sub> = <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>H,F</sub> = 8.6 Hz), 5.10 (d, 1H, OH, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 4.23 (dd, 1H, H-3, *J* = 10.2, 3.3 Hz), 2.91–2.76 [m, 5H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.01–1.95 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.80 [br d, 1H, H-5(b), *J* = 13.9 Hz], 1.09 [d, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, *J* = 6.6 Hz]; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 203.2, 166.5 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 257 Hz), 161.8 (d, <sup>1</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 245 Hz), 143.3, 132.6, 131.3 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 9 Hz), 126.5 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 8 Hz), 116.3 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 22 Hz), 115.2 (d, <sup>2</sup>*J*<sub>C-F</sub> = 21 Hz), 73.4, 55.0, 51.4, 48.8, 44.4, 40.4, 18.8, 18.5; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 360 (M+1, 41), 342 (5), 316 (51), 281 (3), 271 (8), 221 (36), 204 (49), 194 (62), 178 (20), 151 (28), 123 (100), 109 (14), 95 (40), 75 (8), 56 (24%); IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3453, 2966, 2832, 1663, 1598, 1508, 1470, 1409, 1385, 1362, 1299, 1273, 1222, 1204, 1173, 1158, 1096, 1070, 1013, 979, 958, 902, 847, 833, 773. Calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>F<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> (359.41): C, 70.18; H, 6.45; N, 3.90. Found: C, 69.75; H, 6.43; N, 3.88.

**3-(p-Bromobenzoyl)-4-(p-bromophenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol hydrochloride 2f**

M.p. 212–214 °C. Yield: 14%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 8.02 (d, 2H, H-2'/6', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.61 (d, 2H, H-2''/6'', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.43 (d, 2H, H-3'/5', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.36 (d, 2H, H-3''/5'', *J* = 8.4 Hz), 5.78 (dd, 1H, H-3, *J* = 12.1, 3.7 Hz), 5.01 (d, 1H, OH, *J* = 2.6 Hz), 3.51–3.31 [m, 5H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.91–2.84 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.94 [br d, 1H, H-5(b), *J* = 14.3 Hz], 1.53 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.6 Hz), 1.44 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 201.2, 143.2, 133.0, 132.3, 132.0, 131.3, 130.9, 126.6, 122.0, 72.2, 58.5, 47.7, 46.1, 43.7, 36.4, 17.6, 16.3; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 484/482/480 (M+1, 1,2,1), 440/438/436 (3,6,3), 283/281 (21,23), 256/254 (27,29), 212/210 (28,30), 185/183 (94,100), 156/154 (31,33), 132 (18), 98 (10), 72 (28), 56 (39%); IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3279, 2977, 2507, 1675, 1584, 1485, 1398, 1285, 1254, 1228, 1210, 1179, 1155, 1071, 1001, 973, 897, 864, 824, 750. Calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>ClNO<sub>2</sub> (517.68): C, 48.72; H, 4.67; N, 2.71. Found: C, 48.74; H, 4.70; N, 2.83.

**3-(p-Nitrobenzoyl)-4-(p-bromophenyl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol hydrochloride 2g**

M.p. 118–120 °C. Yield: 11%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 8.27 (br d, 2H, H-3'/5', *J* = 9.0 Hz), 8.10 (br d, 2H, H-3''/5'',

*J* = 9.0 Hz), 8.03 (br d, 2H, H-2'/6', *J* = 9.0 Hz), 7.67 (br d, 2H, H-2''/6'', *J* = 9.0 Hz), 4.92 (br s, 1H, OH), 4.39 (dd, 1H, H-3, *J* = 10.8, 3.5 Hz), 2.98–2.80 [m, 5H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.05–1.97 [m, 1H, H-5(a)], 1.84 [br d, 1H, H-5(b), *J* = 13.9 Hz], 1.10 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.2 Hz), 1.09 (d, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>, *J* = 6.6 Hz); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 202.8, 154.6, 151.2, 147.2, 140.0, 129.6, 125.9, 124.4, 123.9, 73.8, 55.1, 52.1, 48.6, 44.0, 40.0, 18.8, 18.3; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 413 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 177 (29), 160 (8), 150 (100), 131 (21), 120 (23), 104 (48), 92 (25), 76 (40), 65 (6), 55 (59%); IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3470, 2966, 2834, 1672, 1603, 1521, 1470, 1347, 1273, 1257, 1201, 1172, 1109, 1069, 1011, 903, 853, 805, 753. Calculated for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>24</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>6</sub> (449.88): C, 56.06; H, 5.38; N, 9.34. Found: C, 56.03; H, 5.49; N, 9.20.

**3-(Thiophen-2-yl-carbonyl)-4-(thiophen-2-yl)-1-isopropyl-4-piperidinol 3**

M.p. 143–144 °C. Yield: 11%. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 7.80 (d, 1H, H-3', *J* = 3.7 Hz), 7.67 (d, 1H, H-5', *J* = 4.8 Hz), 7.12 (dd, 1H, H-4', *J* = 4.8, 3.7 Hz), 7.07 (d, 1H, H-5'', *J* = 4.6 Hz), 6.91 (br d, 1H, H-3'', *J* = 3.3 Hz), 6.82 (dd, 1H, H-4'', *J* = 4.6, 3.3 Hz), 5.44 (s, 1H, OH), 4.04 (br d, 1H, H-3, *J* = 8.8 Hz), 2.98–2.75 [m, 5H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, 2XH-2, 2XH-6], 2.05–2.00 [m, 2H, H-5(a), H-5(b)], 1.09 [d, 6H, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, *J* = 6.2 Hz]; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, ppm) δ = 196.9, 153.4, 143.8, 135.8, 133.5, 128.8, 127.0, 123.9, 122.2, 72.9, 54.9, 54.4, 49.1, 44.4, 41.6, 18.8, 18.6; MS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* 335 (M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 292 (3), 170 (17), 155 (11), 138 (19), 110 (100), 82 (8), 58 (4%); IR (KBr, cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3425, 3095, 2963, 2827, 1635, 1516, 1468, 1412, 1384, 1361, 1305, 1275, 1261, 1235, 1206, 1166, 1065, 1040, 1004, 954, 852, 793, 725, 699. Calculated For C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (335.48): C, 60.86; H, 6.31; N, 4.18; S, 19.12. Found: C, 60.55; H, 6.55; N, 4.18; S, 19.47.

**Results**

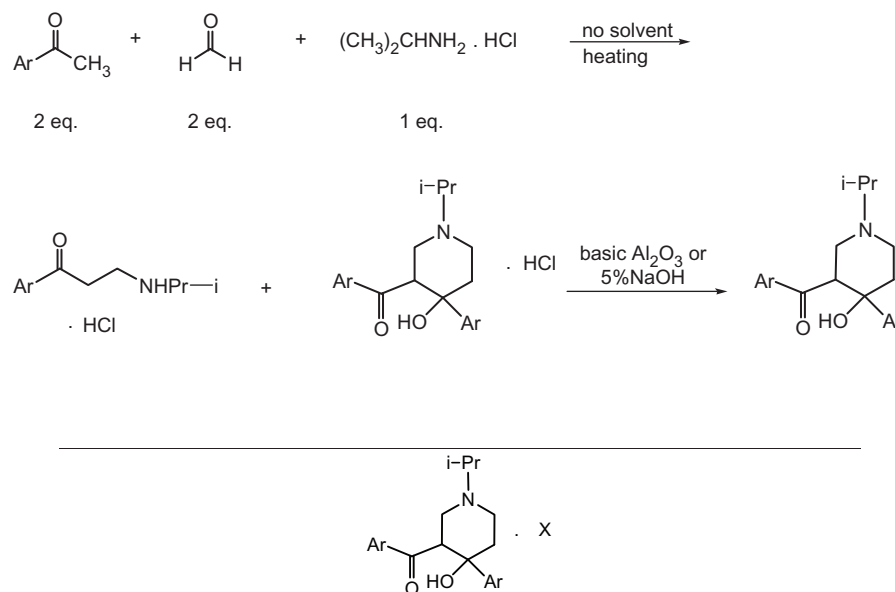
In this study, 4-piperidinol derivative compounds **2a–2g** and **3** were synthesized as presented in Scheme 1 for the first time, except compounds **2a** and **2d** (Figure 1). Experimental and spectral data of the compounds synthesized are presented at the experimental section. The compounds were obtained with the yield of 11–40%. The chemical structures of synthesized compounds were confirmed with IR, <sup>1</sup>H NMR, <sup>13</sup>C NMR, MS and elemental analyses data. Purity level of the compound were within 0.4 %, except **2d** (calculated C:64.29; found C:63.05).

All the synthesized compounds having the chemical structures of 3-aryol-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols were evaluated against the Huh7 and breast cancer (T47D) cells. The cytotoxicity of the compounds and reference compound 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) are listed in Table 1 in terms of the inhibitory potencies (IC<sub>50</sub>, μM).

**Discussion**

In the literature, compounds **2a** and **2d** were already synthesized<sup>35,36</sup>. Plati et al.<sup>34</sup> synthesized some 1,3,4-trisubstituted piperidine derivatives from mono-Mannich bases. In that study, a suspension of 128 g of β-benzoyl ethylisopropylamine hydrochloride, which is a corresponding mono-Mannich base, was stirred for about an hour with 20 g of sodium hydroxide and 1200 cc of water and allowed to stand until solidification was completed for compound **2a**. The solid was crystallized from methanol and acetone in a yield of 85% and the melting point was determined as 123–124 °C. The result of elemental analysis of **2a** in literature was found 77.88 for C and 7.65 for H<sup>35</sup>. The melting point value was in accordance with ours. Although the compound **2d** was used in a literature for zinc electroplating process with acidic zinc



Scheme 1. The synthesis of 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols, **2a–2g** and **3**.Figure 1. 3-Aroyl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols type compounds synthesized, **2a–2g** and **3**.

Ar: (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) for **2a**, (4-CH<sub>3</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2b**, (4-CH<sub>3</sub>OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2c**, (4-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2d**, (4-FC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2e**, (4-BrC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2f**, (4-NO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) for **2g**, (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>3</sub>S(2-yl)) for **3**. X: HCl for **2c**, **2f**, **2g**.

Table 1. Cytotoxic activities against Huh7 cells and T47D cells of the compounds synthesized.

Compounds	Ar	Cytotoxicity (IC <sub>50</sub> ) (μM)	Cytotoxicity (IC <sub>50</sub> ) (μM)
		Huh7	T47D
2a	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	13.8	13.9
2b	4-CH <sub>3</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	136.6	66.9
2c	4-CH <sub>3</sub> OC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	11.1	11.6
2d	4-ClC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	48.9	47.4
2e	4-FC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	45.9	29.5
2f	4-BrC <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	9.1	9.3
2g	4-NO <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	32.3	28.3
3	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>3</sub> S(2-yl)	13.3	12.8
	5FU	42.2	7.00

fluoborate electrolyte, there wasn't detailed experimental procedure for the synthesis of **2d**<sup>36</sup>. In our experimental procedures, the syntheses of the compounds were carried out using a suitable ketone compound, paraformaldehyde and isopropylamine hydrochloride in 2:2:1 mole ratios, respectively. All reagents were stirred and heated without solvent in an oil bath at ~130 °C.

It was expected that *bis*-[β-(*p*-substituted)benzoyl ethyl] isopropylamine hydrochloride or 1-isopropyl-3-(*p*-substituted)benzoyl-4-hydroxy-4-(*p*-substituted)phenyl piperidine hydrochloride can be produced with the experimental procedure used here. But in the experimental condition applied, it was obtained mono-Mannich bases namely 1-(*p*-substituted)phenyl-3-isopropylamine-1-propanone hydrochlorides and semi-cyclic mono-Mannich bases having piperidine structure namely 1-isopropyl-3-(*p*-substituted)benzoyl-4-hydroxy-4-(*p*-substituted)phenyl piperidine hydrochlorides before the treatment of alkaline NaOH solution. After removing mono-Mannich base from the reaction medium as described in the literature<sup>13</sup>, the residue was treated with NaOH aqueous solution (5%) in a water bath at 40 °C until the solidification observed (24–96 h). It was 72 h for **2a**, 24 h for **2b**, 96 h for **2c**, 24 h for **2d**, 24 h for **2e**, 48 h for **2f**, 24 h for **2g** and 48 h for **3**. Since there was no solidification in the case of **2d**, it

was filtered on Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> using EtOH. Our experimental procedure was different than the reported experimental procedure of Plati et al.<sup>34</sup>. Our experimental procedure provides an advantage to obtain mono-Mannich bases and semi-cyclic mono-Mannich bases which have piperidine structure at the same time. The reason of production of piperidine type semi-cyclic mono-Mannich base instead of bis Mannich base can be attributed to the relatively high temperature applied.

Compounds **2a** (3.1 times), **2c** (3.8 times), **2f** (4.6 times), **2g** (1.3 times) and **3** (3.2 times) had higher cytotoxic potency than the reference compound, 5-FU, against Huh7 cells while all the compounds had less cytotoxicity than 5-FU against T47D cells. The cytotoxicities of the compounds **2a–2g** and **3** were 0.10–0.75 times of 5-FU. The cytotoxicities of the compounds were 0.50 times for **2a**, 0.10 times for **2b**, 0.60 times for **2c**, 0.15 times for **2d**, 0.24 times for **2e**, 0.75 times for **2f**, 0.25 times for **2g** and 0.55 times for **3**.

When the effect of the chemical modification on cytotoxic activity was evaluated, it can be said that preparation of piperidinol derivatives had increased the cytotoxicity 1.38–24.7 times comparing with corresponding mono-Mannich base<sup>13</sup>. The increase in cytotoxicity in piperidinols was 1.38 times for **2a**, 1.71 times for **2c**, 5.85 times for **2d**, 8.39 times for **2e**, 24.7 times for **2f** and 1.5 times for **3** against Huh7 cell line comparing mono-Mannich bases reported before. In our previous study, Huh7 was the only cell line used. In the case of **2b** and **2g**, cytotoxicity decreased 7.59 times and 1.7 times, respectively comparing the mono-Mannich bases reported earlier.

The increase in cytotoxicity in piperidinols may possibly be with resulted from the production of 1-aryl-2-propen-1-one which was considered the responsible cytotoxic moiety in Mannich bases in high ration in piperidinols. There was no correlation between the cytotoxicities of the compounds and σ, π, values of the substituents and log *p* values of the compounds (data were not shown).

When the cytotoxicities of the compounds against Huh7 and T47D cell lines were compared, the compounds **2b** and **2e** had shown more potent cytotoxicity against T47D cell line 2.04 and 1.56 times, respectively. While the other compounds had similar cytotoxicities.

## Conclusions

As a result, synthesized compounds having the structure of 3-aryl-4-aryl-1-isopropylamino-4-piperidinols seem to be potential anticancer candidate which deserve further structural modification and pharmacological evaluations. We reported here **2a–2g** and **3** compounds for the first time with their synthesis, spectral analysis and cytotoxicities against Huh7 and T47D cell lines. The compound **2a**, **2c**, **2f**, **2g** and **3** seem to be candidate compounds for further synthetic designs and studies.

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## Declaration of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest. The authors are responsible for the content and writing of this article.

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