

# Nonclassical antifolates, part 5. Benzodiazepine analogues as a new class of DHFR inhibitors: Synthesis, antitumor testing and molecular modeling study □

*Yasmin Saad*

*Assistant Lecturer, Pharmacology and Toxicology Dept., Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Industries, Future University in Egypt*

## **Abstract**

A new series of tetrahydro-quinazoline and tetrahydro-1H-dibenzo[b,e][1,4]diazepine analogues were synthesized and tested for their DHFR inhibition and in- vitro antitumor activity. Compound 35 showed a remarkable DHFR inhibitory potency (IC<sub>50</sub>, 0.004 μM) which is twenty fold more active than methotrexate (MTX). Compounds 17 and 23 proved to be fifteen fold more active than the known antitumor 5-FU, with MG-MID GI<sub>50</sub>, TGI, and LC<sub>50</sub> values of 1.5, 46.8, 93.3 and 1.4, 17.4, 93.3 μM, respectively. Computer modeling studies allowed the identification that methoxy and methyl substituents, the π-system of the chalcone core, the nitrogen atoms, on the dibenzodiazepine ring as pharmacophoric features essential for activity. These mark points could be used as template model for further future optimization.

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