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**Key words:** Neuroprotection; Nepeta Menthoides; Spinal Cord; Axotomy

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## The Neuroprotective Effect of Nepeta Menthoides on Spinal Cord

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**Background:** Among the worldwide efforts to develop new neuroprotective procedures for treatment of the secondary events following central nervous system pathologies, herbal medicines have been taken into account as putative natural treatment strategies. In the present study the putative neuroprotective effect of the herbal medicine, Nepeta Menthoides, on the spinal cord has been investigated.

**Material & Methods:** To induce cell death in the spinal neurons, the sciatic nerve of neonate rats had been sectioned and the effect of intraperitoneal injection of different doses of the herb on the associated spinal neurons has been investigated through morphometry and immunohistochemistry.

**Results and Conclusion:** Our findings indicated that Intraperitoneal injection of Nepeta Menthoides for three days following the injury could prevent the apoptotic cell death and save the injured neurons, approving a dose-dependent neuroprotective effect of the herb on spinal neurons.

**Key words:** Neuroprotection; Nepeta Menthoides; Spinal Cord; Axotomy

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