



## Naproxen Derivative Interaction Properties with ct-DNA

### Naproksen Türevi ile ct-DNA'nın Etkileşim Özellikleri

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#### ABSTRACT

Interaction mode of a naproxen derivative (NH) with ct-DNA was explored by absorption and fluorescence spectroscopy. The experimental results revealed the static quenching as a result of groove binding between the naproxen derivative and ct-DNA. Computational studies were carried out to a deeper understanding of the interactions. Molecular docking calculations showed that the interaction between NH and ct-DNA is resulted by groove binding. In addition to spectral data, docking studies revealed that NH-A\_DNA and NH-B\_DNA complexes had different interaction and conformational trends to each DNA isomer.

#### Key Words

Quenching, groove binding, naproxen, stern-volmer.

#### Öz

Naproksenin bir türevi (NH) ile ct-DNA'nın etkileşim türü absorpsiyon ve floresans spektroskopisi ile incelendi. Deneysel sonuçlar, naproksen türevi ile ct-DNA arasında oluğa bağlanma sonucunda statik sönüm gerçekleştiğini ortaya koymuştur. Hesaplamalı yöntemler de etkileşimin daha detaylı anlaşılması için kullanılmıştır. Moleküler kenetlenme hesaplamaları, NH ve ct-DNA arasındaki etkileşimin oluğa tutunma üzerinden olduğunu göstermiştir. Spektral verilere ek olarak, kenetlenme çalışmaları NH-A\_DNA ve NH-B\_DNA komplekslerinin her bir DNA izomerine özgü farklı etkileşim ve konformasyon eğilimlerine sahip olduğunu göstermiştir.

#### Anahtar Kelimeler

Sönüm, oluğa bağlanma, naproksen, stern-volmer.

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## INTRODUCTION

Development of the tumor cell-targeted drugs is highly motivated subject because of the DNA damaging effects of the most of anticancer chemotherapeutic drugs and the limited number of DNA targeted drugs relatively to the protein targeted drugs [1]. It is important to clarify the type of interaction of possible drug molecules with DNA, to provide guidance for the application as well as to understand the reaction mechanism and to design new drugs. Three main interaction modes used to characterize the organic molecule binding to DNA are electrostatic interactions, minor and major groove binding and intercalation [2-5]. Intercalators are formed a molecular sandwich by placing planar chromophores between adjacent DNA base pairs [6]. Groove binders are generally stabilized their fixation to groove with van der Waals interactions. Hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic forces, and ionic forces are the other well-known non-bonding interactions, which stabilize the small molecule-DNA interactions [7]. Intermediate scalars form a molecular sandwich by placing planar chromophores between adjacent DNA base pairs.

Naproxen is a commonly used nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) of the propionic acid class. The new generation of naproxen derivatives attracts attention because of naproxen's high side effects in long term use. When the studies in the literature were examined, it was observed that the side effects were reduced in the naproxen structures where the acid group was protected [8-9].

Although hydrazide compounds are generally used as starting materials in the synthesis of acyl hydrazone compounds, medicinal and drug discovery chemists investigations are continuous to reveal the biological potentials of these compounds [10]. At this point study of the interaction of these compounds with nucleic acids has a place in the steps of the transition of biologically active compounds into drugs.

In this study, microwave irradiation method, inspired by recent studies and the latest trends in the use of environmentally friendly techniques, was used as a green method in the synthesis of naproxen hydrazide. By using this technique, the reaction was carried out only in 3 mL absolute ethanol for 20 minutes. ct-DNA interactions of the chosen naproxen derivative were systematically studied by molecular docking technique,

UV-Vis absorption spectroscopy, and fluorescence spectroscopy. Quenching and binding properties of the interactions were characterized and an interaction mechanism was suggested for the studied system. We believe that these results reveal contribution to designing new and effective naproxen derivatives and understanding the effective usage of this group drugs.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

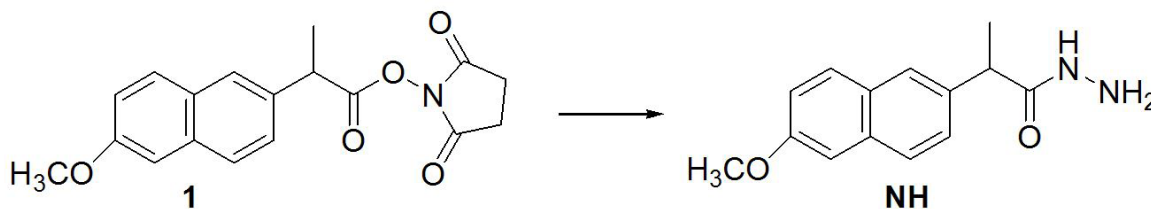
Preparation and characterization of 2-(6-methoxy-naphthalen-2-yl)-propionic acid hydrazide (NH)

Conventional synthesis of compound NH is already known in the literature [11]. In this study, naproxen hydrazide was synthesized in the minimum amount of ethanol under microwave irradiation (Figure 1). The starting compound N-[2-(6-methoxy-2-naphthyl)propanoyloxy]succinimide (1) was prepared by employing the previously reported procedures [12]. In brief, naproxen reacted with N-hydroxysuccinimide in the presence of catalytic amount of DCC to give the desired compound. The melting point of the compound is compatible with the literature. Therefore, the compound was used without any further analysis in the next step of the reaction.

In the synthesis of compound NH, a mixture of 2-(6-methoxy-naphthalene-2-yl)-propionic acid ester (1) (1 g, 3.3 mmol) and hydrazine hydrate (3.0 mL) was added into 3 ml ethyl alcohol and placed teflon microwave vessels. This mixture was heated in a microwave oven for a 20 min at 100 W. The residue obtained at the end of the reaction was poured into water. The solid product was separated by filtration and dried to obtain the desired product NH. The purified compound was obtained by recrystallization in absolute ethanol (Yield: 81 %). Melting point, elementary analysis, <sup>1</sup>H- and APT-NMR and IR measurements were used in the characterization of the compound. All spectral data are consistent with the literature.

### Reagents

The chemicals except naproxen used in studies were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co. 2.0x10<sup>-3</sup> M stock solution of NH was prepared in DMSO and used all throughout the studies. Naproxen was kindly supplied by Atabay Pharmaceuticals. A sodium salt of calf thymus deoxyribonucleic acid was used to prepare the stock ct-DNA solution in Tris-HCl buffer solution at



**Figure 1.** Synthetic pathways of 2-(6-methoxy-naphthalen-2-yl)-propionic acid hydrazide (NH).

pH 8.0. Absorption values of the solution at 260 nm (molar coefficient: 6600 M-1cm-1) were used to get the concentration of the solution. Using the absorption values ratio of the DNA solution at 260 and 280 nm is one of the simplest methods to check the purity of the used DNA and this method used in this study. Prepared ct-DNA solution gave a ratio of  $A_{260}/A_{280} > 1.8$ . and used without further purification. Appropriate dilutions were made before using the stock solutions in daily use and all stock solutions were stored in the refrigerator at 4°C till use.

#### Apparatus

Steady-state fluorescence measurements and the absorption measurements were obtained by FS5-spectrofluorimeter (Edinburgh Instruments). In the measurements were carried out in 1.0 cm quartz cell by using 150 W xenon lamp source. Bandpass slits of excitation and emission were adjusted as 3 and 5 nm for all studies, respectively. a Milestone-RotaPREP microwave oven was used for microwave irradiation source. pH measurements were carried out with Ohaus Starter 3100 pH meter.

#### Fluorescence titrations and UV-Vis Absorption

Spectrophotometric titrations of the NH by ct-DNA was carried out by adding an increasing amount of ct-DNA to the working system (fixed concentration of  $NH=5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol/L in 2.0 mL Tris-HCl buffer; pH 8.0). Fluorescence titrations also were performed in the same way with the spectrophotometric titrations. The temperature dependence of the fluorimetric titrations was investigated by performing the titrations at two different temperature (25 and 45°C). The fluorescence emission spectra of NH were collected between 320-440 nm upon excitation at 236 nm.

#### Competitive displacement assay

Interaction mode of the complexes with ct-DNA was also explored using ethidium bromide (EB) competitive

displacement assay. The measurements were carried on the fixed ethidium bromide and DNA concentrations. Various amount of NH were added onto the EB-ct-DNA complex. All experiments were performed at room temperature.

In a competitive displacement assay, EB-ct-DNA complex was formed by mixing the 1.97  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  EB and 19.8  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  ct-DNA and the concentrations were fixed all along the experiments. Obtained EB-ct-DNA complex was titrated by adding various amounts of NH on it. Fluorescence emission spectra were recorded between 310-420 nm upon excitation of the system at 236 nm.

#### Docking calculation

In this part of the study, DNAs and compound were prepared as the previous study [13] for molecular docking calculations. Blind docking methodology was used to analyzing the interaction mechanism of the ct-DNA with NH by using AutoDock 4.2 [14]. It predicts the possible NH binding mode on the whole DNA target and evaluating its binding affinity using scoring systems. A rigid target and a flexible NH compound were identified (for 100 independent runs per compound) with Lamarckian genetic algorithm for this method. The grid was set up 126, 126, and 126 points in x, y and z directions with a grid spacing of 0.375 Å. The energetic map was calculated by using a distance-dependent function of the dielectric constant. Docking results were assessed with the help of the calculated binding energy and inhibition constant ( $K_i$ ) values of NH and DNAs.

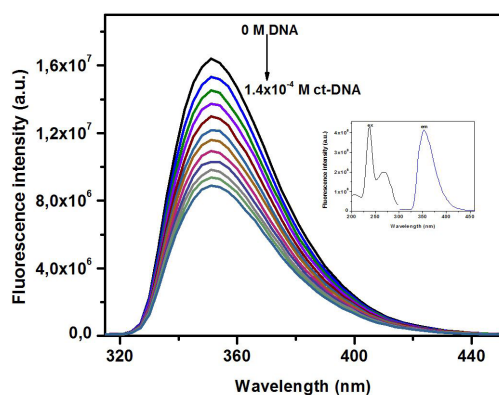
## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Interaction of the small molecules with nucleic acids or proteins is a continuous working area because of the need of new drugs. Fluorescence quenching method provides a useful technique for understanding the interaction of the small organic molecules with nucleic acids because of ease in its application. Fluorescence quenching can

**Table 1.** Interaction parameters of NH and ct-DNA complex at various temperatures.

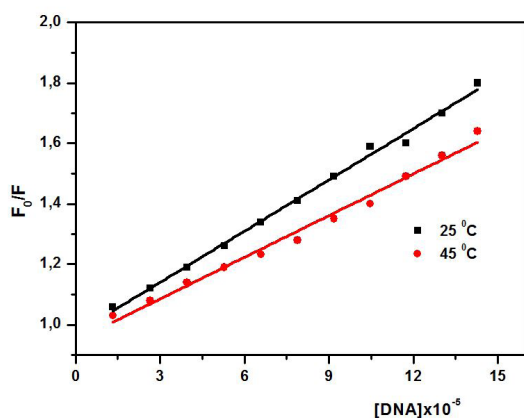
T (°C)	NH		
	$K_{sv} \times 10^3 (M^{-1})$	K	n
298	5.65	8.93x103	1.05
318	4.60	2.12x104	1.18

be defined as the decrease in fluorescence intensity upon interaction of the fluorophore with any quencher. In this study, we aimed to search the possibility of obtaining the more effective naproxen derivative for DNA target treatments and then deducing the binding characteristics of the chosen derivative by using quenching effect of ct-DNA on fluorescence spectra of naproxen derivative. Fluorescence quenching spectra of the NH upon addition of ct-DNA was shown in Figure 2. The observed results showed that the increase of ct-DNA amount caused the gradual decrease in the



**Figure 2.** Fluorescence emission of NH in the presence of ct-DNA ( $\lambda_{ex} = 236$  nm,  $C_{ct-DNA}$ : 0, 1.00, 2.65, 3.97, 5.28, 6.59, 7.89, 9.00, 10.47, 11.75, 13.02, 14.29 ( $\times 10^{-5}$ ) M, from highest curve to lowest).

(A)



**Figure 3.** (A) The Stern-Volmer plot of NH-ct-DNA system at different temperatures; (B) double-log plot of NH-ct-DNA system at different temperatures.

fluorescence intensity of NH. Beside that, the maximum emission wavelength and the shape of the band stayed unchanged. Evaluated experimental data deduced by using Stern-Volmer equation (1) to understand the nature of the fluorescence quenching of the NH by ct-DNA [15];

$$F_0 / F = 1 + K_{sv} [Q] \quad (1)$$

$F_0$  : Initial fluorescence intensity of NH

$F$  : Fluorescence intensity of NHs after the addition of the ct-DNA

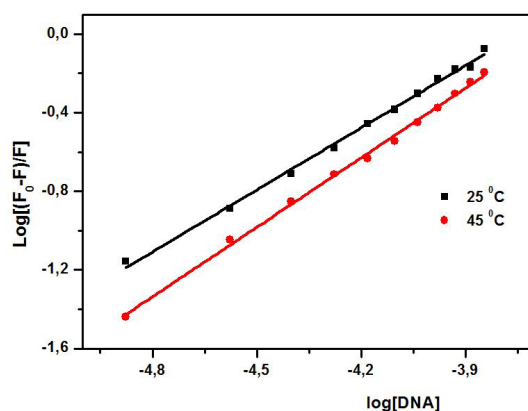
$K_{sv}$  : The Stern–Volmer quenching constant

$[Q]$  : The concentration of quencher (ct-DNA)

Stern-Volmer graphs were interpreted from the performed fluorimetric titrations data at two temperatures and shown in Figure 3(A). Slopes of the graphs were used to get  $K_{sv}$  values of the NH-ct-DNA system and the decrease in values by the increase in temperature was observed. This result points the static quenching as probable quenching mechanisms of NH by ct-DNA. Table 1 shows the obtained numerical results from graphs.

Double logarithm regression curves can be used to evaluate the binding constants ( $K_b$ ) and the number of binding sites ( $n$ ) of the complex systems. Following

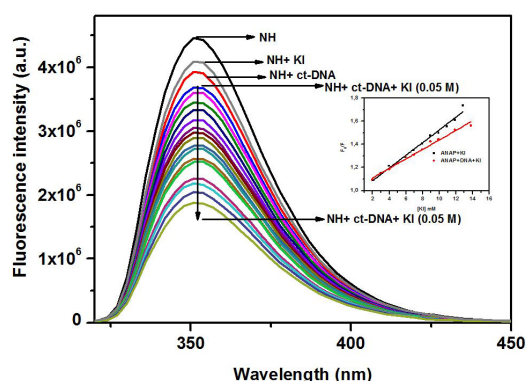
(B)



equation (2) was applied to get the  $K_b$  and  $n$  values of the complex of NH and ct-DNA by using the obtained data from fluorescence quenching process [16];

$$\log(F_0 - F/F) = \log K_b + n \log[Q] \quad (2)$$

The obtained  $K_b$  and  $n$  values of NH with ct-DNA from the intercept and slope of double logarithm regression curve (Figure 3(B)) were listed in Table 1. At the higher temperatures, greater binding constants observed and the increase in temperature can be interpreted as the increment in complex stability. Binding type of fluorescent probe with ct-DNA determines the sensitivity to environmental changes. Intercalators are highly inaccessible as a result of the protection provided by adjacent base pairs. Oppositely, groove binders are mostly objective for environmental changes. Heavy atom quenching on fluorescence systems is a well-known effect of heavy atoms. In this study iodide accessibility of the NH as a fluorescent probe was investigated by a series of studies. Effect of iodide ion and correlation of its effect with iodide concentration are investigated by adding KI solution into NH-ct-DNA system. The decrease in fluorescence intensity of the system upon an increasing amount of iodide in the medium was observed (Figure 3). In the consideration of



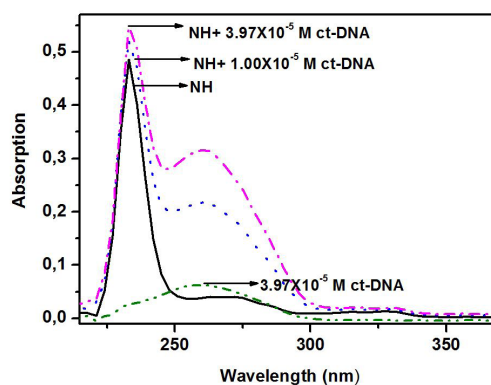
**Figure 4.** Iodide ion quenching effect on the fluorescence emission spectra of NH-ct-DNA complex. Inset refers to the Stern-Volmer plots free NH and NH-ct-DNA complex system in the presence of KI.

the obtained results, groove binding can be suggested in the interaction of NH with ct-DNA.

#### Absorption properties in the presence of ct-DNA

Absorption spectra characteristics of fluorescent probes in the presence and absence of DNA can distinguish the interaction type between probe and DNA. Effects of the various amounts of ct-DNA on the absorption properties of the NH were investigated and the spectra were shown in Figure 5. The absorption spectra of

NH have two distinct absorption bands around 236 and 275 nm and a small absorption band around 340 nm. The origin of the distinct bands observed in the absorption spectra can be the core structure of compounds. Hypochromic and bathochromic effects of the intercalation are well-known characteristics while the hyperchromic effect and a spectral shift come with groove binding [17]. The increment in the absorption of the NH-ct-DNA system upon increment the concentration of the added ct-DNA. Despite the hyperchromicity and mild spectral shift of the bands, the shape of the bands stayed almost unaltered. These

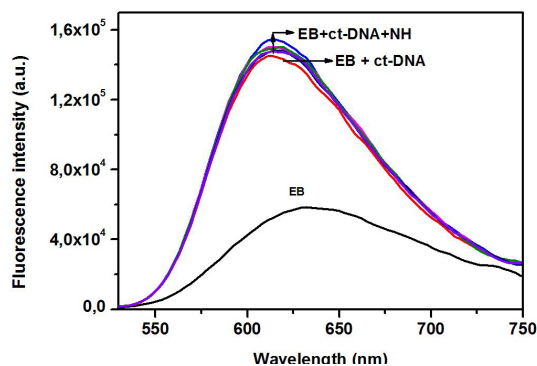


**Figure 5.** ct-DNA effect on the UV-vis absorption spectra of NH (pH=8.0).

for the groove binding between NH and ct-DNA.

#### Competitive Displacement Assay

EB is a well-known interactive DNA binding probe [18]. To further examination of the binding mode of naproxen derivative with ct-DNA, a competitive displacement assay were carried out with EB. The weak fluorescence intensity of the EB increases upon intercalation between base pairs of ct-DNA. However, in the presence of another intercalator, the fluorescence of EB-ct-DNA complex can be quenched as a result of displacement of intercalator with EB [19]. Effect of the NH on the



**Figure 6.** Effect of the NH on the fluorescence emission of the EB-ct-DNA complex.

fluorescence emission of the EB-ct-DNA system is shown in Figure 6.

NH additions have resulted in an insignificant increase NH additions have resulted in an insignificant increase of the fluorescence intensity of the system. This result suggested that the interaction between NH and ct-DNA can take place via groove binding and the probe is not capable to replace with EB, which is located between adjacent base pairs of the ct-DNA duplex. The results are consistent with UV-vis absorption studies.

### Thermodynamic results of the binding between NH and ct-DNA

Main forces in the small molecule-target interactions can be classified into 5 main groups. Those are electrostatic interaction, hydrophobic forces, hydrogen bonds, van der Waals forces, and covalent bonds. The type of the driven force between the probe and ct-DNA can be proposed from the values of the thermodynamic parameters such as  $\Delta H$ ,  $\Delta G$  and  $\Delta S$ . The following two equations numbered as equation 3 and 4 are used to obtain the thermodynamic parameters of the investigated system at two temperatures.

$$\ln K_2 / K_1 = -\Delta H / R [1 / T_2 - 1 / T_1] \quad (3)$$

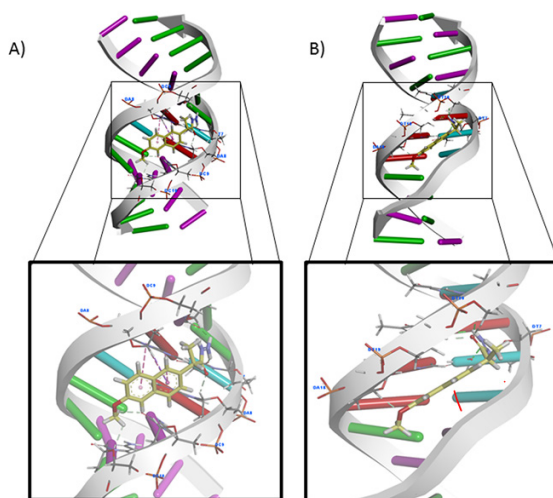
$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T \Delta S = -RT \ln K \quad (4)$$

Binding constant values obtained at 25 and 45°C for NH-ct-DNA complex system were used as K1 and K2 values in the calculations. Gibbs free energy value ( $\Delta G$ ) was calculated for 25°C and used further calculations. The obtained thermodynamic values have interpreted the literature [20-21].

Table 2 represents the obtained thermodynamic results of the investigated system. Hydrophobic interactions were suggested as main interactions since positive

**Table 2.** Evaluated thermodynamic parameters of the NH-ct-DNA system.

Derivative	$\Delta H$ (kJ/mol)	$T\Delta S$ (K.kj/mol)	$\Delta G$ (kJ/mol)	Interaction mode
NH	33.54	56.08	-22.54	Hydrophobic forces



**Figure 7.** Docking poses and interactions of compound NH in A\_DNA (A) and B\_DNA (B).

values of  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  in the binding interactions of NH to ct-DNA. Probe and ct-DNA interactions were accepted spontaneous because of the negative value of  $\Delta G$  [22].

### Docking Results

Molecular docking studies were performed for the elucidation of the molecular interactions between NH compound and DNAs. The docked NH-A\_DNA and NH-B-DNA complexes and their three-dimensional interactions are shown in Figure 7. The NH-A\_DNA complex has five hydrogen bonds with active nucleotides A: DT7, B: DC9, A: DA8, A: DC10 and A: DC9, and four hydrophobic interactions with active nucleotide B: DA8, (Table 3). In addition, interaction with NH compound with B-DNA reveals that hydrogen bonds were dominant, not available other interaction at Figure 7 (B). Besides these interactions of both complexes, modes of NH compounds were different in each DNA isomer.  $K_i$  values and binding energy for each complex were obtained the end of the docking calculations and represented in Table 4. Based on the experiment part, NH-A\_DNA complex data are more suitable than NH-B\_DNA complex data. In conclusion, it is shown that

**Table 3.** EThe interaction type of the complex and thermodynamic analysis results.

Complex	$\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)	$K_i$ (uM)
NH-A-DNA	-5.87	50.10
NH-B-DNA	-7.90	1.61

**Table 3.** Interactions types and distances of NH with A-DNA and B-DNA.

Compound	Interactions	Distance Å	Bonding Types	Bonding	Binding site of DNA	Binding site of ligand
NH-A_DNA	:NH:H31 - A:DT7:O2	2.1775	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	A:DT7:O2	:NH:H31
	:NH:H30 - B:DC9:O2	1.9494	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DC9:O2	:NH:H30
	A:DA8:H1' - :NH:O18	2.1464	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	A:DA8:H1'	:NH:O18
	:NH:H11 - A:DC10:O4'	2.4378	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	A:DC10:O4'	:NH:H11
	:NH:H12 - A:DC9:O2	2.4871	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	A:DC9:O2	:NH:H12
NH-B-DNA	B:DA8:H1' - :NH	2.7705	Pi-Sigma	Hydrophobic	B:DA8:H1'	:NH
	B:DA8 - :NH	5.6031	Pi-Pi T-shaped	Hydrophobic	B:DA8	:NH
	B:DA8 - :NH	5.3892	Pi-Pi T-shaped	Hydrophobic	B:DA8	:NH
	B:DA8 - :NH	5.1835	Pi-Pi T-shaped	Hydrophobic	B:DA8	:NH
	:NH:H31 - B:DT19:O2	1.9374	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DT19:O2	:NH:H31
NH-B-DNA	:NH:H31 - B:DT20:O4'	3.0217	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DT20:O4'	:NH:H31
	:NH:H30 - A:DT7:O2	2.1215	Conventional Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	A:DT7:O2	:NH:H30
	B:DA18:H4' - :NH:O11	1.9859	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DA18:H4'	:NH:O11
	B:DT19:H1' - :NH:O18	1.9731	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DT19:H1'	:NH:O18
	B:DT20:H5'2 - :NH:O18	2.0082	Carbon Hydrogen Bond	Hydrogen Bond	B:DT20:H5'2	:NH:O18



hydrophobic interactions have a dominant effect on NH-DNA interaction. Moreover, additional information about the optimized NH compound was given at Figure S1 and TS1 in supporting information part.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the interaction of ct-DNA with a naproxen derivative were revealed;

1. The main quenching mechanism is static quenching in the NH-ct-DNA complex system.
2. The binding occurs spontaneously.
3. Positive  $\Delta H$  and positive  $\Delta S$  values point the hydrophobic interactions as a driven force in the NH-ct-DNA complex.
4. UV-vis absorption, a competitive binding assay with EB-ct-DNA complex and iodide ion quenching effect results indicate the groove binding between ct-DNA and derivative.
5. Theoretical results with docking interactions and NH modes with DNA back up the experimental results.
6. Docking results revealed that NH compound has a valuable effect with the help of the different research techniques.

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