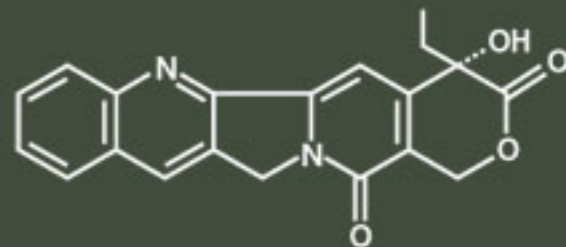


From Nature to Bench to Bedside

History of the Discovery and Development of Taxol and Camptothecin

In 1963, Drs. Wall, Wani and colleagues began isolating, purifying, and characterizing the anticancer components of *Camptotheca acuminata*, whose anticancer activity was first identified in the late 1950s. In 1966, they published the discovery of camptothecin in the *Journal of the American Cancer Society*. Poor water solubility and side effects stalled clinical trials in the early 1970s, but interest was renewed when camptothecin's unique mode of action was reported in 1985. In the mid-1990s, two camptothecin analogs, topotecan and irinotecan, received FDA approval for use against ovarian, lung, breast, and colon cancers.



CAMPTOTHECIN Timeline

