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The synthesis of Rantes, G-CSF, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-12 and IL-13 in human whole-blood cultures is modulated by an extract from Eleutherococcus senticosus L. roots.

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An ethanol extract derived from the roots of *Eleutherococcus senticosus* was found to influence markedly the cytokine synthesis of activated whole blood cultures of ten healthy volunteers. Whereas the synthesis of Rantes was increased over a wide range of concentrations, the release of IL-4, IL-5 and IL-12 was significantly inhibited. An inhibition at higher concentrations, switching to a stimulation at lower doses of the extract was seen with G-CSF, IL-6 and IL-13. From these particular immunopharmacological effects of *Eleutherococcus senticosus* we suggest this herbal preparation possesses immuno-modulatory potency, rather than just being immuno-suppressive or -stimulating. Copyright 2001 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

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