The effects raspberry leaf extracts on the estrogen-dominated rat's uterus in vitro

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1. We examined the effects of two different herbal preparations of red raspberry leaf (tea and capsule) on rat uterine contraction and compared these to three of the major polyphenolic constituents of red raspberry leaf (quercetin, kaempferol and ellagic acid).
2. Both red raspberry leaf forms weakly enhanced uterine contractions.
3. Kaempferol, quercetin, and the citrus flavonoid naringenin relaxed oxytocin (1 nM) - induced contractions with $\textit{pIC}_{50}$ values of 4.8 ± 0.3, 4.6 ± 0.6 and 3.5±0.9, respectively. Ellagic acid had no significant effect.
4. The contractile effects of red raspberry leaf extracts cannot be attributed to its major polyphenolic constituents.