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Synthesis and biological activity of a series of 2-oxoindoline-based *N*-hydroxybenzamide

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Summary: *A series of N-hydroxybenzamides were synthesized and evaluated for cytotoxicity against 3 human cancer cell lines, including SW620 (human colon cancer), PC-3 (human prostate cancer) and AsPC-1 (human pancreatic cancer). The compounds were obtained in good yields from corresponding 5-/7-substituted isatins via a three-step pathway. Only one synthesized compound* ***(IVf)*** *showed strong cytotoxicity in 3 cell lines tested with* IC_{50} *values of 1.39 - 3.62 μM, stronger than that of SAHA (*IC_{50} *values of 3.20 - 3.75 μM, a positive control).*