

Evaluation Of Weight Changes On Wistar Rats Induced By Erythromycin And Aqueous Neem Leaves Extract

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ABSTRACT:

Objective: To evaluate weight changes on the liver of male (albino wistar) rats induced by erythromycin. To assess the outcome of aqueous Neem leaf extract on erythromycin induced hepatic injuries.

Methodology: Eighty male albino wistar rats were taken randomly and were divided into 4 groups of 20 animals each. Group A as a control group. Group B rats were treated with erythromycin drug. Group C rats were treated with erythromycin along with Aqueous Neem leaves extract. Group D were given only Aqueous Neem leaves extract. Body weight of animals was recorded initially and also after experimentation. After 14 days animals were sacrificed, liver weight was also recorded.

Results: The liver of erythromycin treated animals group B were little bigger in size and more reddish. However erythromycin plus Neem treated animals of group C livers were almost like liver of control group A and only Neem given group D animals, liver were exactly same appearance like control group A. Rise in absolute and relative weight of liver was because of drug toxicity.

Conclusion: Its established from this recent study that Aqueous Neem leaves extract being a powerful antioxidant, decreased oxidative stress and hepatic injury caused by erythromycin.

Key Words: Erythromycin, Hepatotoxicity, Azadirachta indica (Neem).

INTRODUCTION:

Liver is an organ with soft parenchyma¹. It is extremely vascular, pinkish brown in colour, friable easily with fine and smooth surface. Liver lies in abdomen below diaphragm secured by ribs². The chief role of the liver is detoxification of exogenous and endogenous compounds and therefore its constant exposure to many xenobiotic, pollution, excessive consumption of alcohol, viral infections therapeutic agent's that leads toward compromised condition of liver³.

Microscopically each lobe of liver constitute of hepatic lobule. Around the central vein hepatocytic plates are placed in radiating manner within these unevenly hexagonal hepatic lobule⁴. Hepatocytes are organized normally in the form of cords which are one or two cells separated by sinusoids⁵. Sinusoids are the channels that are composed of the hepatocytes plates⁶.

Erythromycin is a commonly used antibiotic belonging to macrolide group of medicinal practice⁷. Erythromycin (EM) is now getting attention because of its unique anti-inflammatory

properties. Erythromycin is valuable for the treatment of numerous infections, including tonsillitis, urinary tract infection, bronchopneumonia, mastitis, arthritis⁸. Hepatotoxic osage of Erythromycin stearate (100 mg/kg body weight) given orally for 14 days, daily to the rats that initiate liver damage as well as intense hepatotoxicity⁹.

Azadirachta indica (Neem) is considered as a king of therapeutical plant kingdom. Broadly it has been utilized as numerous years prior and still been using for therapeutic and healing purposes. The plant of Neem related to the coastline forests of the tropical region of Sri Lanka, east India and Burma. It is generally predominant in Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia and Myanmar¹⁰, it is almost found in nearly about 72 countries¹¹. Pharmacological investigations have recognized the estimation of restorative plants as conceivable reason for bioactive compounds¹².

The best dynamic component is azdirachtin and many other includes nimbin, sodium nimbin, gedunin, nimbiol, salanin, nimbolin, nimbidin, and queracetin Neem extract is rich of astringent and salts like fluoride, chloride calcium and sulphur¹³. It contains oils, resin, sterols, flavonoids, silica, gum and alkaloids¹⁴. It has been established that Neem extract has shown hepatoprotective properties in cases of paracetamol intoxication owing to its antioxidative activity¹⁵.

This study aims to estimate the body weight & liver weight changes induced through erythromycin on the liver of male (albino wistar rats) and also to assess the outcome of aqueous Neem leaf extract on erythromycin induced hepatic injuries.

METHODOLOGY:

The research was carried out at the of animal house and the Department of Anatomy, Baqai Medical University Karachi

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.Eighty (80) grown up Albino Wistar male rats of 13-14 weeks of age, weighted between 180 to 200gms were procured from animal house of BMU. The animals were placed in plastic cages (5 animals in each cage) at 30 °C, controlled surroundings with around 14 day and 10 night hours cycle. The rats were given standard feed and water. Acclimatization of animals for about 10 days was assured, prior the start of study. Erythromycin tablets (erythrocin R) 500mg manufactured by Indus Pharma was purchased from medical store Malir Cantt, Karachi. Aqueous Neem leave Extract was made under supervision of Dr.Sadia senior Scientific Officer at Pakistan Council Scientific & Industrial Research(PCSIR) Karachi.

The Healthy animals having age of 13-14 week and weighing 180-200 grams were included in the study Only young, active and healthy animals were used for the experiment. Aged, weak and female rats were excluded from the study. Rats died during the study were also excluded. The design of study was experimental study, carried out to observe the outcome of inference. Twenty (20) rats were positioned randomly into four groups; “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” making it total Eighty (80) male rats. A group was kept as control and received no intervention and was fed with normal diet. Group B Received erythromycin only. Orally 100mg/kg body weight as a single dose daily for 14 days through gastric gavage. Group C received erythromycin 100mg/kg body weight as a single dose and aqueous Neem Extract of 500mg/kg body weight simultaneously through gastric gavage for 14 day. Group D received only aqueous Neem Extract of 500mg/kg body weight as a single dose through gastric gavage for 14 days. Neem extract and Erythromycin were given with the help of gastric gavage about 1 hour distinctly.

Before beginning of the study all the animal were weighted on electronic weighing machine and repeated after every 3rd day. According to group labeled on the cages, rats were kept in separate cages. After final dose animals were weighed for the final weights and then were placed in a glass container where they were given ether anesthesia. The rats were put on dissection board, given midline longitudinal incision, extending from the manubrium sterni until the lower abdomen, in order to expose the organs. After dissecting them, weight of liver was done on electronic scale with the help of following formula, relative weight was calculated¹⁶.

The Relative weight of liver = $\frac{\text{Liver Weight (gm)} \times 100}{\text{Final weight of the body (gm)}}$

Statistical analysis was measured by SPSS (statistical package for social sciences) version 23, complete data was analyzed. Measurable investigation were performed by applying one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with the post – hoc Tukeys test taken after by understudy t test. If P value is less than or equivalent to 0.05, is considered significant with 95% confidence interval is used for

comparison of means among all diverse groups.

RESULTS:

1. Body Weight

Mean value of initial body weight in group “A” were recorded 175.5±8.78 gm and mean value of final body weight in group A were 185.0±8.78gm respectively. It was significantly increased at final stage with mean 185±8.78gm. Data shown noticeably significant p value <0.01

In group B erythromycin treated rats, the mean values of the final body weight of erythromycin treated animals were recorded as 173.3±13.38gm. Data represents noticeable decrease (p<0.01) in final weight of animal body while compared to initial weight of animals body in group B.

In group C erythromycin and Neem treated rats, mean values of the initial body weight were recorded, 169.4±11.78gm. Final body weights of erythromycin and Neem treated animals of group C, the mean values were recorded 164.1±11.52gm respectively. The data presents noteworthy decrease in final body weight (p<0.01) when related to initial body weights of group C animals.

In positive control group D, mean values of initial body weights were recorded, 176.4±8.06gm respectively. Final body weight in group D animals, mean value were recorded 186.2±8.12gm. The data indicates significant increase in final body weight (p<0.01) of group D in comparison with to initial body weight of same group.

2. Absolute Liver Weight

The absolute liver weight, mean values of control group A were recorded 3.42±0.25gm. For absolute liver weight mean values in group B (erythromycin treated animals) were 5.38±0.67gm. Data displays there is noticeable increase in absolute weight of liver (p<0.01) in group B in comparison with control group A. Mean value of absolute weight of liver in group C (erythromycin plus Neem treated animals) were 4.76±0.44gm. According to the data there were significant rise in absolute liver weight (p<0.01) of group C animals when compare with control A group animals. The mean value of absolute liver weight in Neem group D animals were 3.41±0.22gm. The data present no significant change (p>0.01) in absolute liver weight of group D animals as compare with control group A animals.

3. Relative Liver Weight

In control group A animals, mean value of relative weight of liver were 11.3±6.7g. In erythromycin treated group B animals, mean value of relative weight of liver were 38.3±8.6gm. There is a markedly increase (p<0.05) in the relative liver weight in given data when compared with control group A animals. Mean value of relative weight of liver in erythromycin and Neem treated group C animals were 33.8±6.3gm. When comparison with group C animals to control group A animals there was marked increased

($p < 0.05$) in the relative weight of liver. Mean value of relative liver weight in Neem given group D animals were 10.7 ± 5.9 gm. The data represents no significant change ($p > 0.05$) of relative weight of group D animals in comparison to relative liver weight of control group A animals

DISCUSSION:

This study showed that on gross examination in all the four groups, animals liver did not show any noticeable change in size and colour. There were no hemorrhages on the outer surface of the liver.

In this study after 2 week (14 days) of erythromycin treatment, we observed that group B (erythromycin treated) animals were sick as compared to the group A (control animals).

Groups	Treatment	Initial Weight (gm) Mean \pm SD	Final weight (gm) Mean \pm SD
A (n=20)	Control	175.5 \pm 8.78	185.0 \pm 8.57
B (n=20)	Treated	184.3 \pm 13.52	173.7 \pm 13.38
C (n=20)	Protected	169.4 \pm 11.78	164.1 \pm 11.52
D(n=20)	Positive Control	176.4 \pm 8.06	186.2 \pm 8.12

Table 1. Mean Body Weight (Gm) Of Rats Of Different Groups At Initial And Final Stage

Groups	Treatment	Liver Weight (gm) Mean \pm SD
A (n=20)	Control	3.42 \pm 0.25
B (n=20)	Treated	5.38 \pm 0.67
C (n=20)	Protected	4.76 \pm 0.44
D(n=20)	Positive Control	3.41 \pm 0.22

Table 2. Mean Comparison Of Absolute Liver Weights (Gm) Of Animals

Groups	Treatment	Relative Liver Weight(gm), Mean \pm SD
A (n=20)	Control	11.3 \pm 6.7
B (n=20)	Treated	38.3 \pm 8.6
C (n=20)	Protected	33.8 \pm 6.3
D(n=20)	Positive Control	10.7 \pm 5.9

Table 3. Mean Comparison Of Relative Liver Weights (Gm) Of Animals. * $p < 0.05$ was obtained using Kruskal wallis test

Statistical Comparison	Difference (gm)
Final weight and initial weight within group A	-9.5 \pm 2.39
Final weight and initial weight within group B	10.6 \pm 1.46
Final weight and initial weight within group C	5.2 \pm 0.96
Final weight and initial weight within group D	-9.8 \pm 2.0

Table 4. Statistical Comparison Of Difference In Body Weight Within Same Group * p value = < 0.01

The animals of group C appeared to be in better condition as compared to animals of group B.

Group A, animals gained weight when compared with their initial body weight. Whereas, group B (erythromycin treated animals) lost their weight during the period of study. Weight reduction could be due to a disturbed cytochrome P-450 hepatic metabolism.

The same weight changes were observed by N sambo and Nassr-Allah H, in their work they observed decreased in body weights when erythromycin was given in dose of 100mg/kg because erythromycin produces enzyme leakage and other sign of cytotoxicity and disturb the functions of rats liver^{17,18}. In opposition to these findings, reported weight gain when using 50mg/kg/day erythromycin orally in preterm infants to manage the feeding intolerance in mainly fed milk formula. According to the author erythromycin was successful in assisting enteral feeding in very low birth weight preterm infants with moderate to severe gastric dysmotility¹⁹. David Amacher observed no changes in body weight in erythromycin treated animals in his work²⁰. The animals of group C (erythromycin and aqueous Neem extract treated) lost weight after 14 days but this reduction in weight was much lower than group B (erythromycin treated animals). This is in correspondence with the study concluded by Ajibade Adeshina John, who reported body weight increase in animals after giving aqueous Neem leave extract and paracetamol together in order to observe the hepatoprotective effect of aqueous Neem extract on paracetamol induced hepatic damage.

As Neem leaves contains immunomodulatory, anti-inflammatory and adaptogenic activities, it inhibited paracetamol induced lipid peroxidation and protect reduction of sulfhydryl groups in hepatocytes²¹. This is also in agreement to the study by Mohamed A Dhkil. He documented that Neem leaves extract could increase body weight and daily food intake, when given orally about 500mg/kg body weight on the rats treated with cisplatin induced hepatotoxicity and oxidative stress in the female rats because of hepatoprotective nature of the Neem leaves. It have noticeable antiperoxidative and antioxidant radical scavenging activities in response to oxidative stress and peroxidative damage²².

The body weight of animals of only aqueous Neem leaves extract treated group D, gained weight same as weight gained in animal of group A. This study is similar with the Oluwole B. Akinola when Azadirachta indica was given at 500 mg/kg body weight orally in diabetic rats for the treatment of intestinal lesions²³. Chavan also observed weight gain when Neem leaves extract were used for hepatoprotective activity against Alcohol induced liver injury in rats²⁴.

In animals of erythromycin treated group B, the rise in absolute and relative weight of liver was because of drug toxicity. According to Robert R, Maronpot, administration

of phenobarbital in rats causes hepatotoxicity with raised liver weight due to hyperplasia, enlarged lysosomes, hepatocellular hypertrophy and widening of the hepatic blood space inducing P450 enzymes inducers leads to hepatocellular hypertrophy through smooth endoplasmic reticulum proliferation²⁵. This is similar with the study of Xiaoyan Lu, who described the increased in relative weight and absolute liver in animal after administration of erythromycin. According to him, erythromycin induces liver toxicity in both human and experimental animals and it leads to disturbance in energy metabolism, lipid and nucleotide metabolism which may attribute to erythromycin toxicological effect on liver through oxidative stress²⁶. In group C animals after the treatment of erythromycin and Neem extract, the absolute and relative liver weight reduced when compare with erythromycin treated group B animals. This is because of less inflammatory changes and less necrosis due to the antioxidant property of Neem leave extract which is accordance to observation of Nassr-Allah H, who observed decreased in animal liver weight with administration of erythromycin and Neem leave extract together^{18,27}.

In group D animals which was given only Neem leaves extract the absolute and relative liver weight was not increased when compared to group A rats. This is because of Neem leaves (*Azadirachta indica*) have antioxidant effect due to it component nimbidin. Similar effect was observed by Raizada who documented, orally administered Neem extract in dose of 500, 1000 and 1500mg/kg /day did not found any toxicity and changes in absolute and relative liver weights²⁸.

In present study, the animals treated only with Neem extract showed ameliorated effect on liver. This is a confirmation of SO innih who reported the activity of Neem extract on liver, the study established that crude extract of aqueous Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) in considerable amount does not prove any hepatotoxic effect neither any cholestatic effect at 250, 500 or 750mg/kg body weight doses administered for 28 days²⁹. In contrast, Ashafa observed hepatotoxic effect of ethanolic extract of *azadirachta indica* stem bark in male Wistar rats in dose dependent manner, however the aqueous Neem extract was not harmful to liver³⁰.

The present study evaluates the protective effect of Neem leaves extract on erythromycin induced hepatotoxic effect on rats.

Azadirachta indica have been showing important health-promoting results because of its immense antioxidant potential. Previous studies have documented that Neem leaves and its compounds has played an important role in the inhibition of disease pathogenesis³¹.

CONCLUSION:

This recent study determined that erythromycin has hepatotoxic effects on rats. The animals weight changes produced by the erythromycin were finely improved by

Azadirachta indica (Neem). Aqueous Neem leave extract is powerful antioxidant because of this it acts as a hepatoprotective agent.

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