

PROTECTIVE ROLE OF DAIDZEIN AGAINST CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE INDUCED NEPHROTOXICITY IN EXPERIMENTAL RATS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To evaluate the protective effect of daidzein on cyclophosphamide (CPA) induced nephrotoxicity in experimental rats.

Methods: The Wistar rats of either sex were randomly divided into five equal groups: Group I (normal saline 1 ml p. o.), Group II (CPA 150 mg/mg i. p), Group III (Daidzein 20 mg/kg p. o.+CPA 150 mg/kg, i. p.), Group IV (Daidzein 40 mg/kg p. o.+CPA 150 mg/kg, i. p.) and Group V (Daidzein 40 mg/kg p. o., alone). Rats of all groups except Group I and Group V treated with CPA in a dosage of 150 mg/kg i. p in the last five days of treatment. Blood samples were collected on 11th day from each rat and subjected for the evaluation of serum markers such as Serum creatinin, serum urea and serum uric acid. Kidney of each rat was excised and subjected for antioxidant parameters evaluation such as malonyl dialdehyde (MDA), glutathione (GSH), superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase and histopathological study.

Results: Daidzein explored a significant ($P<0.001$) role in CPA-induced nephrotoxicity by suppressing serum creatinine, serum urea and serum uric acid. Daidzein also demonstrated significant ($P<0.001$) protection against CPA-induced nephrotoxicity by decreasing MDA level and by elevating the GSH, SOD, catalase at different doses.

Conclusions: The obtained results of present study revealed that daidzein attenuates the CPA-induced nephrotoxicity by antioxidant defence action in rats.

Keywords: Daidzein, Cyclophosphamide, Serum creatinin, Glutathione, Nephrotoxicity

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INTRODUCTION

The renal system is the major target area for numerous toxic xenobiotics which comprises of environmental chemicals, metals and anticancer agents, antibiotics and other drugs [1]. Chemotherapy is the multimodal approach in the oncological therapy which involves more complex regimens and thereby tends highly susceptible towards toxic effects [2]. Commonly anticancer drugs act by interfering with the growth of tumour cells. Further, their toxic effects are not restricted to cancer cells but also extend to normal cells leads to different types of disease conditions [3].

Cyclophosphamide (CPA) is a broad-spectrum potent anticancer drug. CPA is effective against lymphoma, leukemia, breast, lung, prostate, myeloma and ovarian cancers and non-malignant disorders like rheumatoid arthritis and vasculitis [1, 3]. The usage of CPA is severely limited because of its widespread physiological adverse effects such as hepatic injury, nephrotoxicity, cardiotoxicity, myelosuppression, immunotoxicity, urotoxicity, lung injury, mutagenicity, teratogenicity and other side effects like nausea, vomiting and alopecia [4]. It has been already proved that elevation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) by CPA in renal tissues play a pivot role in the pathogenesis of CPA-induced nephrotoxicity [1].

Flavonoids are the polyphenolic, dietary molecules and rich antioxidants usually found in fruits, flowers and vegetables. These are considered potent chemo preventive molecules because of their hydrogen donating and metal chelating capacities. Recent studies demonstrated that anticancer drugs in combination with detoxifying agents, flavonoids such as morin, rutin, hesperidin, genistein etc, and protective agents reduces the toxicities induced by cancer chemotherapy [4, 5].

Daidzein is a phytoestrogen most commonly found in red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), soya (soybeans and soya foods) and some legumes (Leguminosae). Daidzein is a polyphenolic flavonoid belongs to isoflavone group; a pivot

circulating iso-flavone in people receiving more soy diet. It has already evidenced its beneficial effects against the cancers of breast, ovary, chest, large intestine and prostate gland. It also possesses estrogenic, anti-inflammatory, cardioprotection, hypoglycaemic, neuroprotective and free radical scavenging actions. And also it plays a vital role in the prevention of osteoporosis and menopausal symptoms. Moreover, in our previous studies daidzein explored its protection against hemotoxicity and hepatotoxicity induced by anticancer agent cisplatin by antioxidant action [6-9].

The current study was aimed to evaluate the possible protective action of daidzein against CPA-induced nephrotoxicity in experimental rats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

Healthy adult wistar rats of either sex weighing 170-220g were chosen for the study and were procured from animal house of Shree Devi College of pharmacy, Mangalore. They were acclimatized to laboratory conditions of ambient temperature (25 ± 2 °C), 30-70% humidity and 12 hr light-dark cycles. The rats were categorised into experimental and control groups and housed in sanitized polypropylene cages containing sterile paddy husk as bedding. They had free accessed to standard pellets as basal diet and water *ad libitum*. The experimental protocol was approved by Institutional Animal Ethical Committee, Shree Devi College of pharmacy (SDCP/IAEC-04/2014-15), Mangalore, Karnataka, as per the guidance of committee for the purpose of control and supervision of experiments in animals (CPCSEA), Government of India.

Chemicals

Cyclophosphamide was procured from Sigma Aldrich, Bangalore and other chemicals used were of analytical grade and obtained from standard companies. Biochemical kits for the evaluation of serum markers (serum creatinin, urea and uric acid) were procured from Robonik India, Pvt Ltd, Mumbai.

Experimental design

The present research study was designed for 11 d. Daidzein was isolated from soybeans by solvents (chloroform and ethyl acetate) using soxhlet apparatus and identified by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) method [10]. The experimental rats were categorised into five groups of 6 animals in each after one-week acclimatization.

Group 1 (Normal): rats were received with normal saline 1 ml, p. o. for 10 days.

Group 2 (Cyclophosphamide): rats were received CPA (150 mg/kg, i. p) in last five days, after successive administration of distilled water (1 ml, orally).

Group 3 (CPA+Daidzein 20 mg/kg): rats were received with daidzein 40 mg/kg, p. o for 10days and received CPA (150 mg/kg, i. p) in last five days.

Group 4 (CPA+Daidzein 40 mg/kg): rats were received with daidzein 40 mg/kg, p. o for 10days and received CPA (150 mg/kg, i. p) in last five days.

Group 5 (Daidzein 40 mg/kg alone): rats were received with daidzein 40 mg/kg, p. o for 10 d.

After the completion of 10 d treatment with test drugs, on 11th day the animals of all groups were sacrificed by ether inhalation. Blood was collected from each rat by intracardiac puncture, heparinised and centrifuged at 3000rpm for 15 min. The serum (supernatant) was collected and used for the estimation of serum biomarkers. Kidney of each rat was isolated, separated from their surrounding connective tissue, washed and cleaned with normal saline solution. Later renal tissues were blotted using filter paper to remove traces of blood, weighed and rinsed in ice-cold saline. Half portion of each kidney was homogenized for endogenous antioxidants analysis and the other half portion was processed for histological study [1].

Estimation of serum biomarkers and endogenous antioxidants

Assessment of serum biomarkers

The level serum marker such as creatinine, urea and uric acid in heparinised serum samples were determined by using commercial kits (Robonik) by using semi auto analyser (Robonik).

Estimation of oxidative stress markers

Half portion of the kidney of each rat was homogenized in ice-cold 10% trichloroacetic acid phosphate buffer and saline (0.05M, pH7.4). The renal homogenates were centrifuged for 15000 rpm for 15 min. The obtained supernatants were used for estimations of GSH, MDA, SOD and catalase by colorimetric method. The GSH level of renal tissue was determined according to Ellmanns method [11].

The concentration of lipid peroxides was analyzed by estimating MDA using the Ohkawa *et al.* procedure [12]. Catalase enzyme activity was measured by Aebi method [13]. And SOD activity in renal tissues was assessed based by the method described by Kakkar *et al.* [14].

Histopathological study

Specimens of renal tissues of each group were fixed in 10% buffered formalin and processed with paraffin wax. For histopathological feature examination, 5µm sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin for the examination using light microscope [15].

Statistical analysis

The data obtained by the various parameters was statistically evaluated by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison tests. The mean values±SEM were calculated for each parameter [16].

RESULTS

Estimation of serum biomarkers

A significant (P<0.001) protection was explored on serum markers in daidzein pre-treated animals against CPA-induced disruption on renal system and results data was shown in table 1. A significant (P<0.001) rise in serum creatinine, urea and uric acid content was exhibited in CPA alone treated group compared to the normal group. The pre-treatment with daidzein at both doses (20 mg/kg and 40 mg/kg) groups showed a significant (P<0.001) depletion in the level creatinine, urea and uric acid compared to CPA alone treated groups. And there was no significant change in between of normal group and daidzein alone treated group in serum marker level.

Assessment of endogenous antioxidants

The pre-treatment with daidzein revealed significant (P<0.001) beneficial role on endogenous antioxidants against CPA-induced nephrotoxicity and results were mentioned in table 2. A significant (P<0.001) decline in GSH was observed in CPA alone treated groups compared to normal groups. The pre-treated with daidzein animals exhibit a significant (P<0.001) elevation in GSH compared to CPA alone treated groups. In CPA alone treated groups a significant (P<0.001) increase in MDA content was observed compared to the normal group. In Daidzein pre-treated groups significant (P<0.001) decrease in lipid peroxidation was observed compared to CPA alone treated group.

There was significant (P<0.001) fall in SOD and catalase was found in CPA alone treated animals compared to normal rats. The pre-treated with daidzein groups were explored significant (P<0.001) rise in SOD and catalase compared to CPA alone treated animals. And there was no significant difference in the values of all endogenous antioxidants in between normal group and daidzein alone treated animals.

Table 1: Effect of daidzein on serum markers in CPA induced nephrotoxicity

Treatment	Normal	Cyclophosphamide	Daidzein20/mg/kg+CPA	Daidzein40 mg/kg+CPA	Daidzein (40 mg/kg) alone
Serum Creatinine	0.97±0.08	4.21±0.11###	2.73±0.10####	1.18±0.06**	0.91±0.07***
Serum Urea	38.2±0.43	72.25±0.26###	48.75±0.31####	40.77±0.28####	38.57±0.38***
Uric acid	2.5±0.10	6.83±0.13###	4.45±0.12####	2.97±0.08**	2.58±0.07***

n=6, Values were expressed in mean±SEM, one way ANOVA followed by Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison test.***p<0.001 when compared to Cyclophosphamide group and #P<0.05, ###P<0.001 compared to the normal group.

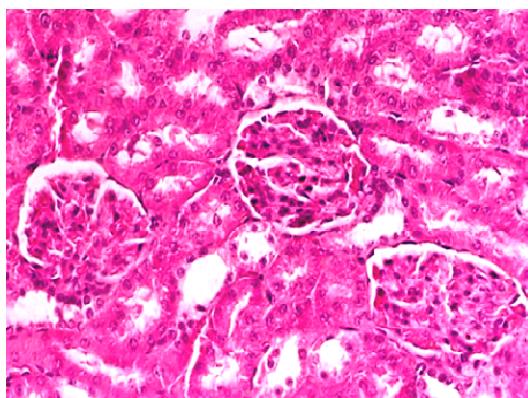
Table 2: Effect of daidzein on endogenous antioxidants in CPA induced nephrotoxicity

Treatment	Normal	Cyclophosphamide	Daidzein20/mg/kg+CPA	Daidzein40 mg/kg+CPA	Daidzein (40 mg/kg) alone
GSH (ηM/mg wet gland)	17.95±0.21	8.86±0.13###	12.98±0.10####	16.85±0.20####	17.96±0.14***
MDA (ηM/mg wet gland)	6.98±0.12	16.51±0.20###	11.15±0.10####	7.31±0.11**	6.95±0.12***
SOD (U/mg wet gland)	96.18±0.54	49.4±0.58###	73.08±0.83####	91.11±0.42####	96.05±0.66***
CATALASE (U/mg wet gland)	22.9±0.12	12.01±0.22###	16.91±0.20####	21.28±0.23####	22.81±0.16***

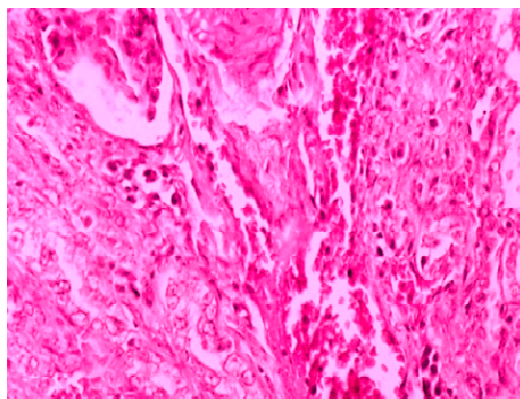
n=6, Values were expressed in mean±SEM, one way ANOVA followed by Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison test.***p<0.001 when compared to Cyclophosphamide group and ##P<0.01, ###P<0.001 compared to normal group.

Histopathological study

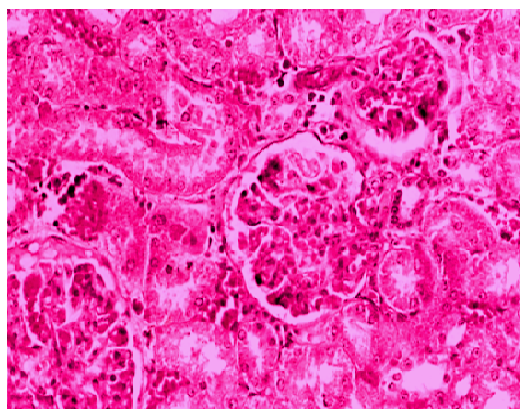
The histopathological changes observed in the current study were displayed in fig. 1. The normal architecture of renal cortex with Bowman's capsule was observed in the normal group. In CPA alone treated group revealed inflammatory infiltration, intertubular haemorrhage, a decrease in the size bowman capsule and congestion of renal blood capillaries. The groups pre-treated with daidzein showed a considerable decrease in inflammation, no haemorrhage and no changes with glomerular cortex and bowman capsule appearance. The modulation in renal histopathology with the treatment of daidzein alone remained almost unchanged or same appearance compared to the normal group.



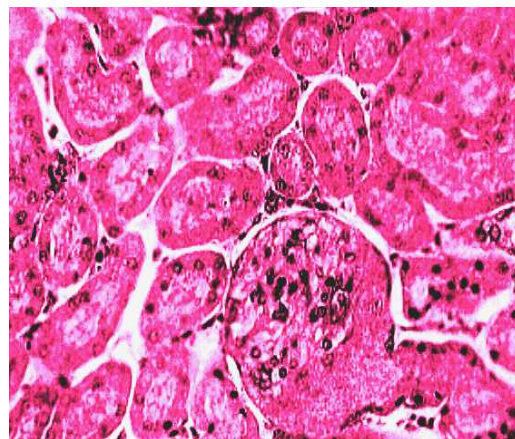
1(a) Normal (normal appearance of renal cortex and tubules, no fatty degeneration and no necrosis)



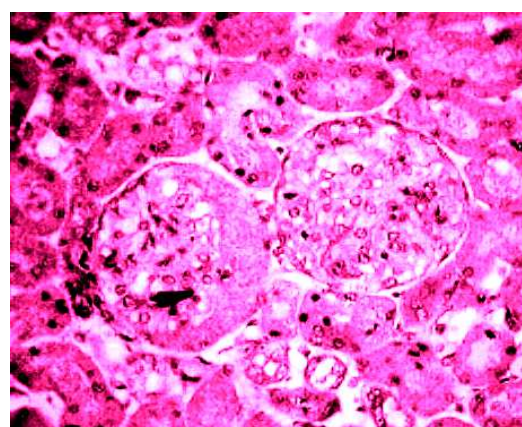
1(b) Cyclophosphamide (CPA)-Alone (disruption renal cortex, congestion of blood vessels, inflammatory infiltration, fatty degeneration)



1(c) CPA+Daidzein 20 mg/kg (mild inflammation, slight fatty degeneration, less vacuolations in cytoplasm)



1(d) CPA+Daidzein 40 mg/kg (cytoplasm well maintained, no inflammation, improved morphology of renal cortex)



1(e) Daidzein 40 mg/kg-Alone (Normal architecture of cortex and tubules as similar as normal group)

Fig. 1: Histological architecture of renal tissues in different experimental groups (H and E, X400). H and E = Hematoxylin and Eosin

DISCUSSION

The present study has demonstrated the nephron-protective effect of daidzein flavonoid on CPA-induced nephrotoxicity in wistar rats.

Anticancer drugs cause nephrotoxicity at different levels and their deleterious effects ranges from a significant rise in creatinine to kidney failure. Nephrotoxicity is one of the major morbid undesired conditions develops during CPA treatment. It was already documented that CPA administration induces oxidative stress injury leads damage to intercellular organs, lipid peroxidation, the decline in protein synthesis and mitochondrial damage. Severe adverse effects in renal tissues on CPA therapy are mainly because of its toxic metabolites that is phosphoramidate and acrolein [17-18].

Nowadays, worldwide increase in evidence of renal injuries and other adverse effects during cancer chemotherapy, it is utmost important to find out complementary antioxidant molecule has the capacity to prevent the renal injuries and other toxicities. In recent studies, flavonoids gained a pivot importance in ameliorating the toxicities produced by CPA and other antineoplastic agents [4, 19]. Daidzein is an isoflavonoid, showed its efficacy in heart disorders, inflammation, atherosclerosis, osteoporosis, free radical scavenging, diabetes, as antiestrogenic and cancers like breast, lung and prostate cancers [8, 20].

In our current study, a significant rise creatinin, urea and uric acid were observed in the CPA-treated group. Serum urea and creatinin

are the major indicators or markers of nephrotoxicity and hepatorenal syndrome. Serum creatinin is the endogenous substance of muscle metabolism and excreted unchanged by the kidney. The elevation in creatinin level in the blood may be due to the abnormality of glomerular filtration process in the kidney [1, 17]. Urea is the waste substance generated during protein metabolism of proteins by Urea cycle by the liver. The deficiency glomerular filtration rate and a decrease in blood volume leads to increase in urea level in serum [17]. Uric acid is by-product generated during purine biotransformation by the enzyme urate oxidase (uridase). The increase in uric acid level might be due to kidney urate elimination and inefficiency of glomerular filtration in nephrons. Further, it may leads to hyperuricemia due to more tubular reabsorption, mediated by urate exchanger and voltage sensitive urate channel in proximal tubules [1]. The pre-treatment with daidzein successfully ameliorated the elevated levels of creatinin, urea and uric acid induced by CPA.

Oxidative stress injury and generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) were implicated in the pathogenesis of CPA and other cytotoxic drugs induced nephrotoxicity. Cellular damage occurs due to disruption of dynamic equilibrium between pro-oxidant and free radicals scavenge by antioxidants [21]. In present study, CPA administration leads significant rise in MDA and decline in GSH level. Increase in lipid peroxidation after CPA administration may be due to the influence of activated neutrophils, macrophages during inflammation or oxidative deterioration of polyunsaturated fatty acids. GSH is considered as the major antioxidant against ROS and vital constituent of detoxification pathways. The depletion in GSH content in renal tissues after CPA therapy is due to the toxic metabolite acrolein. Acrolein binds GSH in the plasma membrane and disrupts antioxidant defense system and elevates the ROS and leads to the necrosis of the tubular cells of kidney [1, 4, 17]. The pre-treatment of daidzein successfully prevent the increased LPO and GSH content induced by CPA. In the current work, a significant decline in SOD and catalase level was observed after CPA administration. SOD and catalase are the vital antioxidant enzymes which converts oxygen molecules into non-toxic products. Increase in LPO and ROS leads to decrease in SOD level. Elevation in the level H_2O_2 is due to the inhibition of catalase action. The depletion of catalase in turn also prevents the SOD action. The decline in these antioxidant enzymes is mainly due to more ROS and lipid peroxidation [22]. The pre-treatment with daidzein significantly increases the level SOD and catalase after CPA treatment.

The findings of serum markers and antioxidant parameters were correlated with histopathological examination. The CPA therapy exhibit decrease in the size of Bowman's capsule, inflammatory infiltration, congestion and dilatation of blood vessels and atrophy of glomerular apparatus. The pre-treatment with daidzein successfully augmented the toxic effects induced by CPA renal system by exploring beneficial effects such as inhibition of atrophy, no change in the size of Bowman's capsule, slight inflammation and no congestion of blood capillaries.

The pre-treatment with daidzein virtually augmented majority of the deleterious effects produced by CPA. The nephroprotective role of daidzein was evidenced by improvement in the structural architecture of renal profiles, suppression of oxidative stress. Moreover, recent studies of daidzein demonstrated its potential effects in hepatic injury caused by D-galactose-amine and cisplatin by its free radical scavenging action [9, 23].

Thus, oral administration of daidzein revealed significant potential effects against deleterious changes in serum markers, antioxidants and histopathology brought by CPA by its inhibitory action on ROS and oxidative stress.

CONCLUSION

The current study demonstrates that daidzein had positive antioxidant effect against CPA-induced nephrotoxicity, as it alleviates the modifications in serum biomarkers such as creatinine, urea and uric acid as well as oxidative stress markers in renal tissues such as MDA, GSH, SOD and catalase. In future, daidzein may be preferred in combination with anticancer drugs for the treatment of the patients suffering from cancer.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Declared none

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