

Original Research Article

# Cyclophosphamide altered the myocardial marker enzymes: protection provoked by Hesperidin in Rats

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## Abstract

Our present experimentation was carried out to evaluate the efficacy of hesperidin (HDN) (100mg/kg body weight), administered orally for 7 days on cyclophosphamide (CP) elicited oxidative damage on rat heart. Cardiotoxicity inflicted by single intraperitoneal injection of CP (200mg/kg body weight) was manifested by exalted levels of CPK (creatinine phosphokinase), ALT (alanine transaminase), AST (aspartate transaminase) and LDH (lactate dehydrogenase). CP induced group depicted significant amelioration in level of MDA (malondialdehyde), HDN treated group demonstrated inflated levels of above enzymes and decreased level of MDA. These levels were reversed to normal levels in HDN treated group. Thus result of our study is in concordance with the notion that HDN is adept in combating myocardial free radical damage provoked by CP thus proving its protective potential.

**Keywords:** Antioxidants; Cardiotoxicity; Cyclophosphamide; Hesperidin; Oxidative stress.

## Introduction

It is quite prevalent that anticancer agents caused mild to severe side effects; therefore without besmirching the name of these curative agents, we emphasized our study on toxicity occurring due to their overdose regimens. CP, a nitrogen mustard alkylating agent, is widely used in the treatment of variety of human malignancies, including breast cancer [1], carcinoma of the lung [2], acute leukemia [3]. Like most of the anticancer drugs, CP also causes various toxic effects, the commonest of which is the dose-dependent cardio toxicity that ultimately leads to acute and chronic heart failure [4,5]. Biotransformation of CP mediates through involvement of cytochrome p450 mixed function oxidases with the formation of metabolites phosphoramidate mustard and acrolein which are highly toxic [6-8]. Through this pathway CP has potential to generate superfluous reactive oxygen species [9,10]. Due to the presence of less developed antioxidant defense mechanism, heart is particularly vulnerable to injury by reactive oxygen species. This facilitated the notion that CP also caused a significant decrease in heart weight / body weight ratio, which indicate loss of myofibrils and cytoplasmic vacuolization in myocytes [11,12], of cardiac tissue. Antioxidant system in our body inactivates the free radicals

to retard the destruction performed by them. Some antioxidants such as, superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), glutathione (GSH), sulfhydryl group, CoQ 10 and thioredoxin [13]. The rationale for choosing nature's treasure such as flavonoid was to obtain maximum benefit with their antioxidant property. One of them is "flavonoids" like hesperidin, naringin and diosmin [14,15]. In the present investigation the potential of HDN was deeply evaluated in condition of oxidative stress and it was significantly observed that comparable amounts of free radicals were quenched by it [16]. HDN (30, 5, 9-dihydroxy-40-methoxy-7-Orutinosyl Flavanone), a naturally occurring flavonoid, is a usual constituent of fruits and vegetables [17]. By going with the previous findings which established its bolstering role in oxidative stress, it was considered as safe model for protection against free radicals. There is substantial evidence to suggest that HDN exerts protective action in cardiac tissue by its antihypertensive and antioxidant properties [18,19]. Present study was postulated in the fact that HDN delayed the progression of CP induced myocardial injury which was in concordance with previous studies which revealed antioxidant role of HDN in conditions of oxidative stress.



## Materials and methods

### Drugs and chemicals

CP (Ledoxan) was purchased from Dabur Pharma Limited, New Delhi, India. HDN was purchased from Sigma Aldrich Chemical Company, Bangalore, India. All other chemicals and solvents were of the highest purity and analytical grade.

### Animals

The study was conducted on male Wistar rats (150±10 g). Animals were obtained from the Animal House, Vel's college of pharmacy, the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, India. Animals were provided with commercially available standard rat pellet feed (M/s Pranav Agro Industries Ltd., India) under the trade name Amrut rat/mice feed and water ad libitum. The animals were deprived of food for 24 hr before experimentation but allowed free access to sterile water. The rats were housed under conditions of controlled temperature (25±2°C) and were acclimatized to 12 hr light: 12 hr dark cycles. Experiment was conducted after obtaining prior permission according to the university and institutional legislation as regulated by the committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Thus experiment was performed under defined guidelines laid down by the committee.

### Experimental Protocol

The experimental animals were randomized into four groups of six rats each as follows:

Group I: Rats were given saline (1ml/kg b.wt.) as vehicle for 7 days which served as control.

Group II: Rats were given intraperitoneal injection of CP (200mg/kg b.wt.) dissolved in saline, on the first day of the experimental period.

Group III: Rats received only HDN (100mg/kg b.wt.) orally for 7 days.

Group IV: Rats were administered with CP as in group II, and immediately supplemented with HDN intraperitoneally for 7 days.

7 days after the experimental period (i.e., on the 8th day), all the animals were anaesthetized and killed by decapitation. Cardiac tissues were excised and washed in ice-cold physiological saline. The cardiac tissues were homogenized in 0.01 M Tris – HCL buffer (pH 7.4) in homogenizer and aliquots of this homogenate were used for the assays. After collecting the blood, serum was centrifuged for analysis of biochemical parameters.

### Biochemical Estimations

Estimation of Diagnostic Heart Markers:

Activities of AST and ALT were determined by the method of Reitman and Frankel *et al* [20]. LDH was assayed according to the method of King *et al* [21]. CPK was assayed by the Broad *et al* [22].

### Estimation of Lipid Peroxides

Serum lipid peroxide content was estimated by the method of Yagi *et al* [23]. The level of lipid peroxides in tissue was determined by 'Thio barbituric acid' reaction as described by Ohkawa *et al* [24]. Absorbance was measured at 532 nm and 1, 1', 3; 3'-tetramethoxypropane was used as standard. Tissue lipid peroxide levels were expressed as nmoles of MDA/mg protein.

### Statistical Analysis

All the grouped data were statistically evaluated with Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), Version 7.5. Hypothesis testing methods included one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by least significant difference (LSD) test. A 'P' value of less than 0.05 was considered to indicate statistical significance. All the results were expressed as mean + S.D. for six animals in each group.

## Results

### Effect of HDN on the levels of diagnostic marker enzymes

Oxidative damage in the cardiac tissue resulted with the single dose of CP (200mg/kg b.wt.) as was evidenced by following biochemical changes. A significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in the level of diagnostic marker enzymes (CPK, ALT, AST and LDH) was observed in (group II) CP administered rats as compared to group I control rats (Table 1). Subsequent administration of hesperidin in (group IV) CP+HDN restored the levels of enzymes to ( $p < 0.05$ ) normalcy when compared to (group II) CP induced rats. No significant differences were observed in HDN alone administered rats (group III) compared to (group I) control rats.

### Effect of HDN on the levels of cardiac enzymes

Decreased activity of cardiac enzymes was observed in CP administered rats (group II), that demonstrate cardiac tissue degradation (Table 2) when compared to hesperidin treated rats (Group IV) CP+HDN, the level of enzymes were restored to near normal status ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### Effect of HDN on the levels of MDA (malondialdehyde) in cardiac tissue

Lipid peroxidation resulted due to CP administration (group II) was assessed by measuring MDA (Figure 1), CP+HDN treated group significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) lowered the CP induced degradation of membrane lipids (group IV).

**Table 1:** Effect of Cyclophosphamide and Hesperidin on the activities of cardiac markerenzymes in serum.

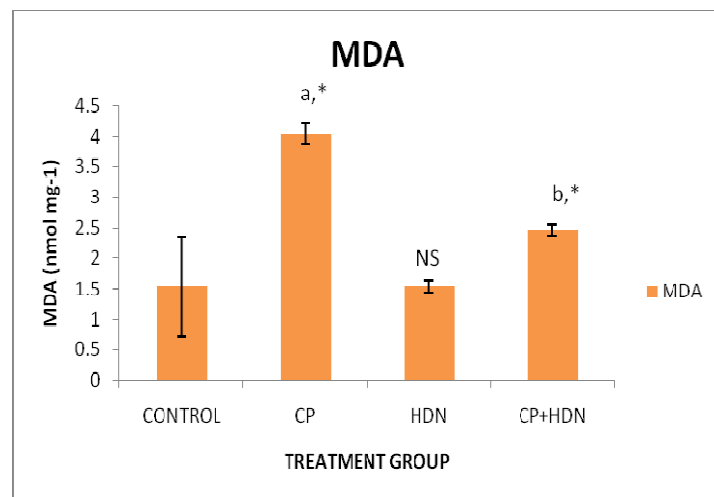
Groups	CPK (IU L <sup>-1</sup> )	ALT (IU L <sup>-1</sup> )	LDH (IU L <sup>-1</sup> )	AST (IU L <sup>-1</sup> )
Group I (Control)	125.46 ±2.54	50.95 ±0.74	274.73 ±1.44	83.04 ±2.16
Group II (CP)	290.89 ±7.57 <sup>a</sup>	185.74 ±11.44 <sup>a</sup>	453.26 ±48.31 <sup>a</sup>	275.35 ±18.75 <sup>a</sup>
Group III (HDN)	125.71 ±2.66 <sup>NS</sup>	53.59 ±1.72 <sup>NS</sup>	280.40 ±7.50 <sup>NS</sup>	85.05 ±2.98 <sup>NS</sup>
Group IV (HDN+CP)	136.76 ±10.84 <sup>b</sup>	59.15 ±2.66 <sup>b</sup>	299.75 ±14.14 <sup>b</sup>	101.78 ±6.83 <sup>b</sup>

Results are expressed as mean ±S.D. for 6 rats. Comparisons are made between: <sup>a</sup>-group I and group II; <sup>b</sup>-group II and group IV. \*Statistically significant (p < 0.05); NS – non significant.

**Table 2:** Effect of Cyclophosphamide and Hesperidin on the activities of cardiac mark enzymes in tissue.

Groups	CPK (IU mg <sup>-1</sup> protein)	ALT (IU mg <sup>-1</sup> protein)	LDH (IU mg <sup>-1</sup> protein)	AST (IU mg <sup>-1</sup> protein)
Group I (Control)	22.59 ±1.48	6.16 ±0.22	33.88 ±1.50	7.00 ±0.44
Group II (CP)	7.43 ±0.45 <sup>a</sup>	2.68 ±0.10 <sup>a</sup>	14.52 ±1.08 <sup>a</sup>	3.32 ±0.15 <sup>a</sup>
Group III (HDN)	23.30 ±1.53 <sup>NS</sup>	6.16 ±0.35 <sup>NS</sup>	34.71 ±0.95 <sup>NS</sup>	7.19 ±0.87 <sup>NS</sup>
Group IV (HDN+CP)	17.92 ±0.276 <sup>b</sup>	4.61 ±0.10 <sup>b</sup>	28.94 ±1.83 <sup>b</sup>	7.13 ±0.56 <sup>b</sup>

Results are expressed as mean ±S.D. for 6 rats. Comparisons are made between: <sup>a</sup>-group I and group II; <sup>b</sup>-group II and group IV. \*Statistically significant (p < 0.05); NS – non significant.

**Figure 1 :** Levels of MDA in the heart of experimental animals.

Results are given as mean ±S.D. For 6 rats. Comparisons are made between: a-group I and group II; b-group II and group IV. \*Statistically significant (p < 0.05); NS – non significant.

## Discussion

Preceding explorations revealed CP after ingestion converts into active metabolites, 4-OH-cyclophosphamide and aldophosphamide. Aldophosphamide, as assured primarily dissociates into phosphoramidate mustard and acrolein, which is a toxic by product [7,25]. Acrolein can also react directly with glutathione (non enzymic antioxidant); forming irreversible conjugates [26]. Molecules such as proteins, membrane lipids and RNA may interact with either of these metabolites resulting in production of unstable reactive oxygen species (ROS). Mounting studies substantiated that CP cardiotoxicity proceeded via production of free radicals [27]. These free radicals cause profound deterioration to the membrane integrity of a cell as conglomerated previously. This is accompanied by endothelial and vascular damage to the myocardium. Mounting reports assured that there was a poignant amelioration noticed in the levels of diagnostic marker enzymes such as ALT, AST, LDH and CPK [27]. This indicated that these enzymes, leaking from disrupted cardiac tissue because of their tissue specificity and catalytic activity are the best markers of myocardium injury [28]. In the present study, administration of HDN maintained the level of these enzymes to near normalcy thereby restoring the membrane function [17,29]. Previous documentations reported that HDN due to its surefootedness in providing protective effect is efficient in combating free radicals causing oxidative stress [30]. CP induction provokes lipid bilayer repercussion by breaking down membrane phospholipids [16]. therefore MDA, product of lipid peroxidation acts as a marker for lipid bilayer damage [19]. As the membrane damage progress, it results in the buildup of free radicals in normal animals which leads to greater membrane damage and inactivation or alteration of membrane bound enzymes [9]. On treatment with rats, HDN decreased MDA level signifying attenuation in lipid

peroxidation thereby proving its stabilizing power on membranes [31]. Enough evidence has been garnered for HDN proving to be effective antioxidant in CP mediated oxidative stress [32]. Thus

concluding, the cardioprotective effect of HDN is probably related to its membrane stabilizing action and scavenging of free radicals generated by CP.

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