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Research Article

Preclinical Study On Protective Effects Of Maqui Berry Extract On Aniline Induced Spleen Toxicity

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ABSTRACT

The most common toxic effect of aniline is splenotoxicity which is produced via the generation of oxidative stress. The present study examines the protective effect of Maqui Berry Extract on spleen weight, body weight, endogenous antioxidants and membrane bound ATPases in aniline hydrochloride (AH) induced spleen toxicity in rats. Adult male albino rats were divided into five groups, each group consists of six rats. Toxicity was induced by administration of AH (200 ppm, p. o) in drinking water for 30 days. Body weight, markers of oxidative stress and haematological parameters were assessed at the end of treatment period. Treatment rats received Maqui Berry Extract (25, 50 and 100 mg/kg/day/p.o) for 30 days. AH toxic rats showed a significant elevation of spleen weight, WBC count, iron content, LPO level, NO level and Ca⁺⁺ ATPase whereas a significant decrease in body weight, haemoglobin, RBCs level, Protein content, GSH and Na^{+/} K ⁺ and Mg⁺⁺ ATPase were observed. Administration of Maqui Berry Extract (25, 50 and 100 mg/kg/day/p.o) for 30 consecutive days shows a significant decrease in spleen weight, WBC level, iron content, LPO level, NO level whereas significant increase in body weight, hemoglobin level, RBCs level Protein content, GSH level, Na^{+/} K⁺ ATPase, Ca⁺⁺ and Mg⁺⁺ ATPase when compared with aniline treated group. These findings indicate greater protective effect of Maqui Berry Extract (100 mg/kg/day/p.o) in aniline induced spleen toxicity in rats compared to Maqui Berry Extract (25 and 50 mg/kg/day/p.o).

INTRODUCTION

The poisonous aromatic amine aniline is made up of an amino group joined to a phenyl group. Among its many uses in the industrial chemical industry are resins, dyes, perfumes, pigments, fungicides, varnishes, hydroquinone, and rubber compounds. Exposure to aniline can cause cyanosis, weakness, vertigo, headache, stupor, loss

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of coordination, and coma, among other clinical signs [1]. Rats exposed to aniline have been shown to develop spleen toxicity. Aniline causes toxicity through a number of processes, including oxidative stress, protein oxidation, iron excess, and the spleen's production of hemoglobin. An early sign of aniline poisoning is the formation of methemoglobin (MetHb), which disrupts the blood's ability to carry oxygen [2]. Spleen poisoning is largely caused by oxidative stress, and early indications of spleen toxicity may be avoided with treatment with high-quality antioxidants [3, 4]. Maqui berries are small, dark purple fruits that are endemic to South America. The scientific name for them is Aristotelia chilensis. They are renowned for providing several health advantages and having a high nutritional content. The maqui berry is well-known for having strong antioxidant qualities. Many polyphenols are present in it, with anthocyanins, flavonoids, and phenolic acids being the most prevalent. These substances exhibit potent antioxidant properties. In maqui berries, delphinidin-3-sambubioside-5-glucoside and delphinidin-3,5-diglucoside are the most prevalent anthocyanins. Antioxidants included in maqui berries can affect the functioning of different oxidative stress-related enzymes. ROS production can rise as a result of persistent inflammation. The anti-inflammatory qualities of maqui berries aid in reducing this oxidative stressor. Maqui berry also has anti-aging, anti-cancer, and cardiovascular potential, according to several research [5]. The goal of the current study was to evaluate the effects of Maqui berry on AH-induced spleen toxicity in rats, taking into account the role of antioxidants and oxidative stress in spleen toxicity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Drugs and chemicals

Aniline HCL was procured from Sigma Aldrich Chemical, Mumbai. Maqui Berry Extract was procured from Shree Sai Biotech, Indore (M.P.). All the other chemicals used in the study were of analytical grade and procured from standard supplier.

Experimental animals

Male wistar rats (200-250g) were used in the study. The rats were maintained under standard laboratory conditions at temperature $23\pm1^{\circ}$ C, relative humidity 45–55% and 12 h light and 12 h dark cycles throughout the experiments as per CPCSEA guidelines. The experimental protocol was approved by Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) of SSDJ College of Pharmacy, Neminagar, Chandwad.

Experimental protocol

The rats were divided into five groups of six rats each. Group 1: Served as control and received distilled water. Group II: Rats received AH (200ppm in drinking water) for 30 days. Group III: Rats received AH (200ppm in drinking water) and Maqui berry extract (25mg/kg/p.o.) for 30 days. Group IV: Rats received AH (200ppm in drinking water) and Maqui berry extract (50mg/kg/p.o.) for 30 days. Group V: Rats received AH (200ppm in drinking water) and Maqui berry extract (100mg/kg/p.o.) for 30 days.

Assessment of spleen toxicity

Body weight, spleen weight, water consumption, and feed intake were recorded at the conclusion of the treatment period. Using a glass capillary, blood was extracted from the retroorbital plexus, and a high-speed centrifuge was used to separate the serum. Blood was used to measure the amount of hemoglobin (using Sahli's hemometer method), the number of red blood cells (RBCs), and the number of white blood cells (WBCs) using a hemocytometer. Using a Span diagnostic kit, serum was utilized to estimate the total iron contents [6] and protein contents on а biochemistry analyzer. Euthanasia was used to sacrifice the animals. The spleen was quickly placed in ice-cold water, homogenized, centrifuged, and the supernatant was used to measure endogenous antioxidants including tissue lipid peroxidation (LPO) [7], reduced glutathione (GSH) [8], nitrite level [9], and superoxide dismutase (SOD) [10], catalase (CAT) [11].The estimation of membrane-bound ATPases, including Na⁺/K⁺ [12], Ca⁺⁺ [13], and Mg⁺⁺ [14], was done using the spleen sediment.

Statistical analysis

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ****p<0.001 compared to control and #p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.

RESULTS

Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on body weight, feed intake, water intake, and spleen weight Following the treatment period, each group's body weight, food consumption, and water intake were tracked. Comparing the AH-treated group to the control group, it was discovered to have changed somewhat. When compared to the AH-treated group, the 30-day administration of varying concentrations of Maqui berry extract (25, 50, and 100 mg/kg/day) resulted in a substantial (p<0.001) change in body weight, food consumption, and water intake. At the completion of the trial, the weight of the spleen was tracked. The spleen weight of the AH-treated group was significantly (p<0.001) higher than that of the control group. When compared to the AH-treated group, the weight of the spleen improved more significantly (p<0.001) after 30 days of treatment with Maqui berry extract at a dose of 100 mg/kg/day (Table 1).

 Table 1: Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on body weight, food intake, water intake and spleen weight

1	Body wt. (gm)	Food intake (gm)	Water intake (ml)	Spleen wt. (gm)
G-I	287.2±5.32	21.1±0.96	40.4±1.54	0.67±0.11
G-II	212.6±3.36***	11.8±0.68***	21.0±1.07***	1.40±0.09***
G-III	229.6±3.42###	14.2±0.37###	25.4±0.55###	1.04±0.09 [#]
G-IV	233.3±3.03###	14.6±0.40###	25.1±0.49###	1.02±0.07#
G-V	247.2±1.91###	17.5±0.91###	30.5±1.26###	0.89±0.06###

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 compared to control and #p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.

3.2 Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on hemoglobin, RBCs and WBCs counts

WBC, RBC, and hemoglobin levels were tracked for each group. Rats treated with AH had considerably lower levels of hemoglobin and red blood cells (RBCs) than control rats (p<0.001). Rats treated with AH and given 25 or 50 mg/kg of Maqui berry extract daily demonstrated a significant (p<0.01) rise in hemoglobin count, while rats given the same extract daily showed a less significant (p<0.05) increase in red blood cell count. In the current investigation, it was found that, in comparison to rats given with AH, a 100 mg/kg/day dose more significantly (p<0.001) elevated hemoglobin and red blood cell count after 30 days (Figure 1 a and b).

The WBC count of the rats receiving AH treatment was found to be significantly higher in the current investigation. When compared to rats treated with AH, rats treated with Maqui berry extract (25, 50 mg/kg/day) had a substantial (p<0.01) decrease in WBC count, while rats given a 100 mg/kg dose of Maqui berry extract demonstrated a more significant (p<0.001) decrease in WBC count after 30 days (Figure 1c).



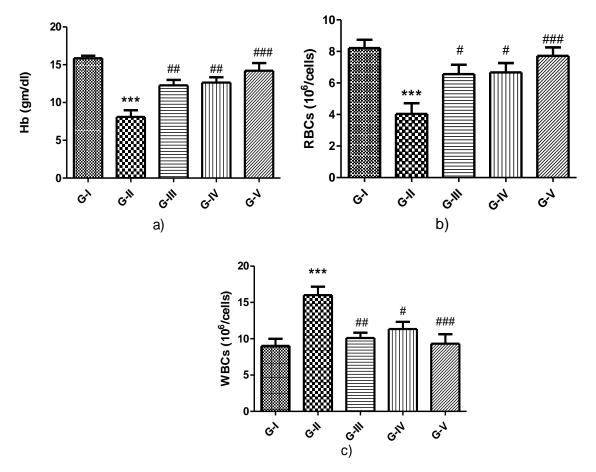


Figure 1: Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on hemoglobin, RBCs and WBCs counts

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 compared to control and #p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.

Effect different concentration of Maqui berry extract on total protein and total iron content

Additionally, the level of total protein content was tracked. Rats treated with AH were shown to exhibit a significant (p < 0.001) decrease in protein content when compared to control rats. Rats administered with a varied concentration of Maqui berry extract for 30 days demonstrated a substantial (p < 0.001) increase in protein content

when compared to rats treated with AH. Rats treated with AH had a considerably higher total iron level (p < 0.001) than the control group. When compared to rats treated with AH, treatment with Maqui berry extract at a dose of 25 mg/kg resulted in a significant decrease in iron levels; however, when Maqui berry extract was administered at doses of 50 mg/kg and 100 mg/kg for 30 days, the reduction in total iron content was superior (Figure 2a and b).



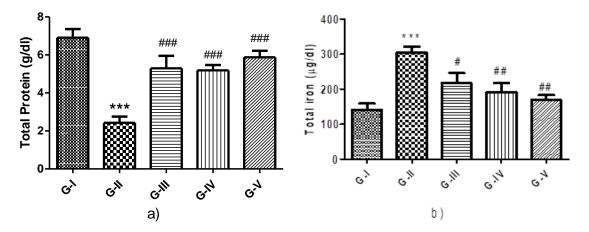


Figure 2: Effect different concentration of Maqui berry extract on total protein and total iron content

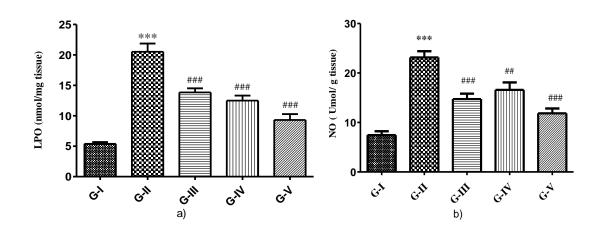
Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 compared to control and #p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.

Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on Lipid Peroxidation (LPO), Nitric Oxide (NO) and Reduced Glutathione (GSH), Superoxide dismutase (SOD) and Catalase (CAT) in spleen tissue:

All groups had their levels of lipid peroxidation, nitric oxide, reduced glutathione, superoxide dismutase and catalase checked. When AH-treated rats' spleen tissue homogenate was compared to control rats, it was shown that the concentration of LPO and NO was significantly (p<0.001) higher, whereas the concentration of GSH was significantly (p<0.001) lower due to changes in

oxidative stress indicators. When compared to rats given with AH, rats treated with Maqui berry extract (25, 50, and 100 mg/kg/day) demonstrated a significant (p<0.001) decrease in LPO and NO and an increase in GSH levels after 30 days (Figure 3 a, b, and c).

AH treated rats showed significant (p < 0.001) reduction in level of SOD and CAT due to alteration in oxidative stress markers when compared to the control groups. Treatment with Maqui berry extract in different concentration of (25, 50, 100 mg/kg/day) displayed significant (p < 0.001) increased the concentration of SOD and CAT when compared with AH treated groups (Figure 3 d & e).





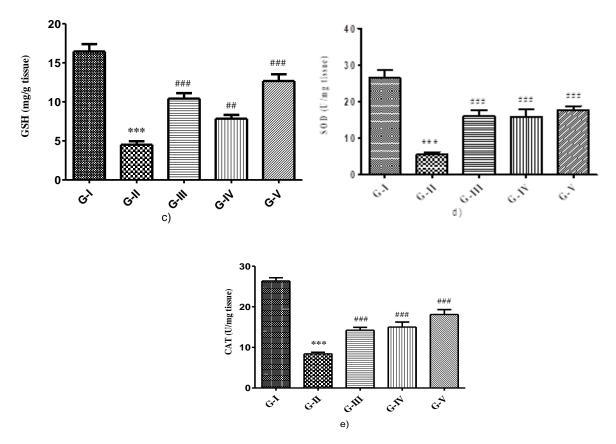


Figure 3: Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on Lipid Peroxidation (LPO), Nitric Oxide (NO) and Reduced Glutathione (GSH) Superoxide dismutase (SOD) and Catalase (CAT) in spleen

tissue

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 compared to control and #p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.

Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on Na⁺/K⁺, Ca²⁺ and Mg²⁺ ATPases:

The levels of the ATPases Na^+/K^+ , Ca^{++} , and Mg^{++} in the spleen homogenate were observed in each group. According to (Fig. 4 a, b, and c). Rats treated with AH showed a significant (p<0.001) decrease in the concentrations of Na^+/K^+ , Ca^{++} , and Mg^{++} when compared to the control group. When compared to the AH treatment group, AH rats given varying doses of Maqui berry extract (25, 50, and 100 mg/kg/day) for 30 days demonstrated a significant (p<0.001) increase in their levels of Na^+/K^+ and Ca2++. The Mg⁺⁺ levels of AH rats treated with 25 and 50 mg/kg/day of Maqui berry extract for 30 days showed a significant (p<0.05) increase, while the Mg⁺⁺ levels of rats treated with 100 mg/kg/day of Maqui berry extract showed a more notable increase than the Mg⁺⁺ levels of the AH treated group.



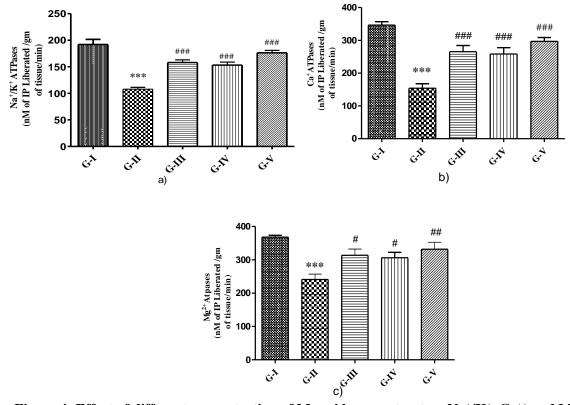


Figure 4: Effect of different concentration of Maqui berry extract on Na⁺/K⁺, Ca⁺⁺ and Mg⁺⁺ ATPasesValues are expressed as Mean \pm SEM (n=6). Analysis was
performed by applying ANOVA followed by Dunnett't' test.
*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 compared to control and
#p<0.05, ##p<0.01, ###p<0.001 compared to AH group.activated during the erythrocyte scavenging
procedure. This enhanced creation of highly
reactive species, like hydroxyl radical and
ferrocyanide, is the outcome [17]DISCUSSIONChamage in hede provided to and protein intelled

Maqui berry extract was utilized as a potent antioxidant in this work, and its ability to prevent spleen damage caused by aniline was evaluated. Rats are known to develop selective splenic toxicity when exposed to aniline and substituted aniline [15]. Rats that are exposed to aniline suffer splenic poisoning. Aniline toxicity is mostly indicated by the production of methaemoglobin Aniline produces its secondary (MetHb). metabolites during hepatic clearance, which aid in the creation of MetHb. The production of MetHb significantly impairs the blood's ability to carry oxygen. The two metabolites of aniline that contribute to its toxicity, particularly its splenic toxicity, are metHb and phenyl hydroxyl amine (PHA) [16]. The observed harm is caused by the phagocytes primarily the macrophages becoming

activated during the erythrocyte scavenging procedure. This enhanced creation of highly reactive species, like hydroxyl radical and [17]. Changes in body weight, feed and water intake, as well as spleen hypertrophy, suggested AH toxicity in the current investigation. In the current investigation, rats exposed to AH had significantly lower levels of hemoglobin and red blood cells (RBCs), while their white blood cell counts were much higher than those of normal control rats. These alterations in blood parameters were tightly linked, in a time-dependent manner, to a enlargement concurrent of the spleen; splenomegaly seems to be caused by an excess of chemically damaged erythrocyte deposits [18]. Hemoglobin levels, RBC counts, and WBC counts were significantly altered after treatment with Maqui berry (100 mg/kg/p.o.). This change may have been caused by the fruit's potent antioxidant and free radical scavenging properties.

Rats given AH demonstrated a marked rise in iron load and fall in protein levels. As a modulator of aniline-induced splenotoxicity, iron is important. Iron builds up as a result of AH toxicity, which can lead to the overproduction of reactive oxygen species and harm proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids [17]. Aniline exposure may induce lipid peroxidation in the spleen, which may be followed by morphological changes such as increased cellularity in the red pulp due to an increase in sinusoidal cells and fibroblasts, thickening of the capsular layer, and formation of fibrous tissue in the parenchyma and capsule [19]. Greater MDAprotein adduct formation in the spleen was observed after AH treatment, indicating that MDA produced as a result of lipid peroxidation produces native protein structural modification, which can change the protein's functional properties and therefore contribute to aniline-induced splenic toxicity. In rats given AH, increased NO levels could be the result of inos stimulation. An important component of many biological processes, including cellular growth and development, protein and nucleic acid synthesis, signal transduction, and maintaining redox balance in cells, is reduced glutathione, an endogenous antioxidant [20]. GSH can produce a second strong hydrophilic antioxidant [21]. Superoxide dismutase play an essential function in oxidative damage by triggering quick dismutation of O_2^{-} species, thus lowering the risk of 'OH production in reaction that are metal-catalyzed [22]. CAT catalyzes the depletion of H₂O₂ and guards against extremely reactive hydroxyl radicals in cell. The LPO and NO levels in the AH-induced group were significantly higher, whereas the spleen's GSH level was significantly lower. The oxidative stress biomarker level was dramatically restored to normal by maqui berry (25, 50, 100 mg/kg/p.o.). Aniline's free radical production can also change the level of ATPases [23]. Maqui fruit has been shown to have pharmacological properties,

including antihypertensive action, and is a potent antioxidant that may scavenge free radicals, shielding cells from oxidative stress [24]. It is claimed to have a protective effect on cells due to its antioxidant qualities [25]. It has been demonstrated that maqui berries provide other antioxidants, including vitamin E, electrons [26]. As a result, the current study demonstrated the protective impact of antioxidants, such as Maqui berry extract, against rat spleen damage caused by aniline.

CONCLUSION

The current investigation demonstrated the Maqui berry's splenoprotective properties in rats with spleen toxicity treated with aniline. The potent antioxidant properties of antioxidants may be the cause of this impact. The maqui berry demonstrated a more potent antioxidant synthesis pathway. Through attenuation of produced oxidative stress and restoration of antioxidative enzyme, the administration of Maqui berry, which targets multiple pathogenic mechanisms, led to the prevention and progression of Aniline-induced damage. The current investigation spleen discovered that a dose of 100 mg/kg of Maqui berry had a greater splenoprotective impact. The spleen toxicity will be avoided with the use of antioxidant therapy. Confirming the antioxidant's response mechanism will require more in-depth molecular research.

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