

ALLETHRIN INDUCED TOXICOPATHOLOGICAL ALTERATIONS IN ADULT MALE ALBINO RATS

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the allethrin induced toxico-pathological changes in adult male albino rats. A total of 60 adult male albino rats were divided randomly into 4 equal groups. Group A served as control. Groups B, C and D were administered orally Allethrin @ 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5g/kg body for 14 experiment days, respectively. Dullness, erected hairs, alopecia, less response towards feed and water, watery droppings, tremors, convulsions and coma were more prominent signs in treated groups. Feed intake and body weight decreased in all treated groups. Mortality was recorded in group C and D. The total erythrocyte and leukocyte counts, hemoglobin concentration and packed cell volume decreased significantly ($P \leq 0.05$) in all allethrin treated groups as compared to the control group. Histopathologically, kidneys exhibited condensed nuclei, necrotic tubules and congested renal parenchyma. In liver, vacuolar degeneration in nucleus and cytoplasm was observed. Micro nucleated lymphocytes were also evident in group D treated with the highest dose of allethrin. In conclusion, allethrin induced dose and time dependent toxico-pathological effects in adult male albino rats.

Keywords: Allethrin, Albino rats, Toxico-pathology and Genotoxicity.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Mosquito borne diseases like Dengue and Malaria are major public health threat faced by developing countries (Naz et al. 2019). The later disease is endemic in most of the countries and one million deaths occur annually due to malaria worldwide (Idowu et al. 2013; Gul et al. 2019). About 30,000 people only in Punjab in 2011 has been affected by dengue (Khan et al. 2012).

The use of insecticides is the most widely used control method to kill mosquito. Among various insecticides, pyrethroids contribute about 25% of all and are utilized in the market for over and above 40 years (Shafer et al. 2005; Caloni et al. 2016). Pyrethroids are being used extensively because they have more efficacy against many insects and are also less toxic, hydrophobic and biologically degradable (Dorman and Beasley 1991). They act selectively blocking sodium channels and cause their metabolic degradation (Narahashi 1996).

Synthetic compounds like pyrethroid results in increased stress and its high amount in the household dust contaminate the environment (Colt et al. 2004). Humans are exposed to these insecticides with mixers, loaders, greenhouses, atmosphere, workers, and applicators (Hernandez-Valero et al. 2001). Exposure can also be occurred through ingestion, inhalation, dermally and orally. Particularly, in developing countries their extensive use has caused severe ecological contamination and health dangers and results in increased counting of acute and chronic cases of animal and human poisoning along with harm to other non-targeted entities (Chedik et al. 2017; Guéniche et al. 2020). It is well known for neurotoxicity but it can have hepatotoxic, immunosuppressive, carcinogenic, anti-pregnant and estrogenic effects as well (Gupta et al. 2013).

Different biochemical and physical disorders include the fall in reproductive efficiency, oxidative damage, poor erythropoiesis, and genotoxic effects (Hussien et al. 2013). In recent years, more considerations are given to

pyrethroid toxicity in animals because animals being exposed to these insecticides exhibited behavioral changes as well as other obvious pathological changes (Khan et al. 2009).

Like allethrin and resmethrin (Mortein Coil-Neurotoxins) which are the pyrethroid insecticides, their toxicity is a matter of great importance because their use is growing day by day in household pest management. The relationship between abnormal exposure and several biological responses were determined by toxico-pathological studies (Antunes-Kenyon and Kennedy 2007) as the sub-lethal and chronic exposure because histopathological changes and these changes indicate occurrence of pollutants in different organs and tissues (Bernet et al. 1999). Thus, current study was designed to investigate the responses of allethrin in albino rats for the assessment of safety by using micronucleus assay technique.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Rats housing and feed

A total of 60 adult albino rats were procured from National Institute of Health Sciences and were kept in cages under standard management conditions. Ad-libitum water and basal feed with 16% protein was offered to the different groups. After three days of acclimatization period rats were divided into four groups A to D having 15 rats in each group.

2.2. Experimental design

Sixty of adult male albino rats were divided into four groups' i.e. A, B, C and D having 15 rats in each group. Three levels of allethrin (0.5, 1.0 and 1.5g/kg) were administered only once at day 14 of the experiment. Group A served as control while group B received allethrin @ (0.5g/kg BW), group C @ (1.0g/kg BW) and group D (1.5g/kg BW) respectively. The feed intake and body weight of different experimental groups was recorded on daily and weekly basis, respectively.

2.3. Parameters Studied

Rats were monitored twice a day on daily basis to observe the change in behavioral responses and categorized based on severity into very mild (+), mild (++) , moderate (+++) and severe (++++). Rats mortality was recorded during the whole length of the experimental trial. Numbers of rats died during whole period of 42 days were calculated. Feed intake per rats was calculated on daily basis in the treatment groups. Body weight of each rat was measured on weekly basis.

2.4. Hematological parameters

Six rats from each group were randomly selected and killed humanely on day 21 of the experiment and blood was collected with Na₂EDTA; for the estimation of TEC and TLC following the method of Khan (2008). Hematocrit was dogged by micro hematocrit for determination of PCV and hemocytometer method was used for the Hb concentrations respectively, in different groups (Benjamin 1978).

2.5. Micronucleus Assay

Blood was obtained by venipuncture technique and collected in heparin vacutainers. Lymphocytes were cultured by adding 0.5ml of whole blood to 4.5 ml of RPMI 1640 medium containing 15% heat-inactivated FBS, L-glutamine and 1% PenStrep (penicillin and streptomycin). Lymphocyte culture was stirred by incubating the samples at 37°C for 72 hours after addition of 1% of phytohemagglutinin. Forty-four hours later 6µg/ml (final concentration) of cytochalasin B (Surralles et al. 1994) was added to the cultures to arrest cytokinesis. The cultures were harvested after 72 hours of incubation by centrifugation at 200g for 8 minutes. The samples were then treated with a hypotonic solution of 0.075 M KCl at 4°C for 2 to 3 minutes. A methanol acetic acid solution (3:1, v/v) was gently added after centrifugation. The cells were resuspended in a small volume of fixative and dropped onto clean slides. The slides were prepared in triplicates. The slides were finally stained with 10% Giemsa stain (in PBS) for 10 minutes. The numbers of binucleated cells with micronuclei (BNMN) were counted under the microscope (500 per replicas).

2.6. Gross and Histopathological Studies

Formalin fixed samples of liver and kidneys collected from each group were processed for histopathological examination by using routine method of dehydration in ascending grades of ethanol, clearing in xylene and stained with hematoxylin and Eosin (Hassein et al. 2012).

2.7. Statistical Analysis

Data collected from the experiment was subjected to the statistical analysis by applying 2-Factor factorial. The means of the different groups were compared by using Duncan multiple range (DMR) test. The level of significance was P≤0.05.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Physical Parameters

Clinical signs (Table 1) including dullness, depression, erected hairs, alopecia, tremors, convulsions, coma and watery droppings were present in all treated groups. However, the signs were mild in the group treated with 0.5g/kg allethrin, all signs were moderate while coma was more prominent with dose 1.0g/kg allethrin than all the other groups. Same signs were seen in group treated with highest dose of allethrin with varying degree shown in Table 1. Acute mortality was observed in treated groups. There was no mortality in control group. Mortality of rats administered different doses of allethrin was 25, 50 and 50% in groups B, C and D, respectively.

Table 1: Clinical signs displayed by Allethrin treated rats

Signs	Groups		
	B	C	D
Dullness	++	+++	++++
Erected hairs	+++	++++	++++
Alopecia	+	++	++++
Tremors	++	++++	+++
Convulsions	+	+	++++
Coma	+++	++++	++
Watery droppings	+	++	+++
Decreased feed intake	+	++	+++
Decreased body weight	+	++	+++

Groups B, C and D received Allethrin @ 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5g/kg once for day 14th of experiment. Group A was kept as control and no signs were observed.

3.2. Feed Intake and Body Weight

All the treatment groups were offered ad-libitum feed throughout experiment. Feed intake was decreased with increasing dose of allethrin. Maximum decrease was observed in D group. Feed intake of group B and C was lower throughout experiment (Fig. 1). There was increase in body weight of all groups significantly up to two weeks of experiment. At day 14 of experiment, significant decrease in body weight of group B, C and D was observed. Body weight of group D was less than all other groups throughout experiment. Body weight in group B was not much decreased than control group. From third- and fourth-week post treatment all groups again started to gain weight (Table 2).

Table 2: Body weights (g) of mice fed with different doses of allethrin for 6 weeks

Groups	Experimental Days						
	1 st	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	35 th	42 nd
A	168.6±10.0a	173.6±18.0a	200.9±9.9a	211.5±20.0a	217.5±19.9a	224.5±21.3a	227.5±23.3a
B	175.1±12.1a	181.1±23.1a	208.9±20.7ab	196.4±19.8a	185.5±19.3a	196.7±21.7a	215.0±22.1a
C	170.4±15.0a	179.5±27.0a	216.4±26.9b	190.6±24.8ab	178.50±2.1a	190.5± 3.5a	208.0±1.4a
D	179.4±15.6a	197.3±25.6a	236.9±28.2b	185.1±25.6b	173.0±12.7a	185.0±9.9a	200.0±5.6a

Values (Mean±SD) in each column following different letters are statistically significant (P≤0.05).

3.3. Hematological Parameters

The total erythrocyte count, packed cell volume and hemoglobin concentration fluctuated in allethrin treated groups (Table 3). At day 21 of experiment, total erythrocyte counts (TEC) was significantly decreased in group treated with highest dose of allethrin (Table 3). Whereas, an increase in the number of red blood cells was observed in allethrin treated group C. At 42-day total erythrocyte count was not significantly different in all treated groups as compared to control. However, total leukocyte count decreased significantly throughout experiment in comparison to control at days 21 and 42.

3.4. Genotoxicity (Formulation of Micronuclei)

Incidence of micronucleated lymphocytes was found in all treated groups than control group. Micronucleated lymphocytes were more evident in group D (0.81%) treated with higher dose of allethrin as compared with groups treated with low doses i.e., group C (0.60%) and group B (0.41%). In non-treated control (group A), there was also 0.30% micronucleated lymphocytes.

3.5. Pathological Observations

Microscopically, liver of rats in group D exhibited slight vacuolation in nucleus at day 21 of experiment whereas the liver architecture and cells remained normal (Fig. 2). At day 42 of experiment mild cellular infiltration and fatty change was present in the hepatic parenchyma (Fig. 3). In present study, kidneys showed condensation of nucleus and cytoplasm was strongly stained that is indication of necrosis in rats of D group. Protein rich fluid was also present in the lumen of tubules with inflammatory changes at 21 day of experiment (Fig. 4). At day 42 an increase in the necrotic changes of the renal tubules, pyknotic nucleus in some cells and tubular degeneration were present in the renal parenchyma (Fig. 5).

Table 3: Erythrocyte indices and leukocytic counts in allethrin treated albino mice in contrast to control mice

Parameters/Days	Groups			
	A	B	C	D
Total erythrocyte count ($\times 10^{12}/\mu\text{L}$)				
21	5.91 \pm 0.24	5.36 \pm 0.35c	6.91 \pm 0.44a	1.96 \pm 0.28d
42	4.43 \pm 0.70b	5.51 \pm 0.09a	4.64 \pm 0.17b	4.58 \pm 0.60b
Hemoglobin Concentration (g/dl)				
21	15.42 \pm 0.50a	13.70 \pm 1.06b	16.97 \pm 1.05a	15.27 \pm 1.43c
42	12.32 \pm 1.73b	14.45 \pm 0.38a	12.25 \pm 0.29b	11.80 \pm 1.71b
Packed cell volume (%)				
21	35.60 \pm 6.08ab	30.45 \pm 3.81b	36.97 \pm 2.38a	10.47 \pm 2.07c
42	28.02 \pm 4.10b	34.92 \pm 0.42a	27.97 \pm 0.24b	27.97 \pm 0.24
Total leukocyte count ($\times 10^9/\text{L}$)				
21	12.57 \pm 3.12a	15.30 \pm 3.56a	4.45 \pm 0.72b	3.62 \pm 0.17b
42	7.87 \pm 2.74a	8.50 \pm 3.53a	7.22 \pm 0.33a	7.37 \pm 3.10a

Values (Mean \pm SD) with different alphabets in a row differ significantly ($P\leq 0.05$). Group B to D were administered with allethrin @ 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5g/kg, respectively. Group A was kept as control.

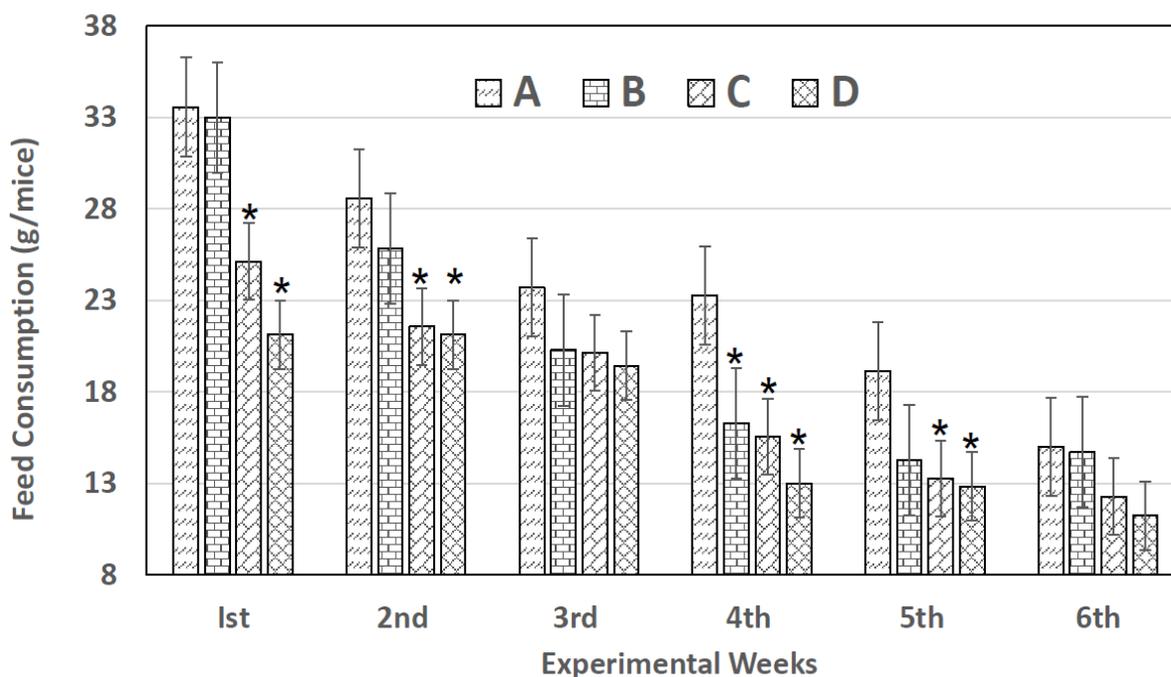


Fig. 1: Feed intake (g/mice/day) fed with different doses of allethrin for 6 weeks. In every column, bars (Mean \pm SD) following asterisk differ significantly ($P\leq 0.05$) than that of control group. Group A (Control) = No treatment; groups B, C and D were with Allethrin @ 0.1, 0.5 and 1.5mg/kg, respectively.

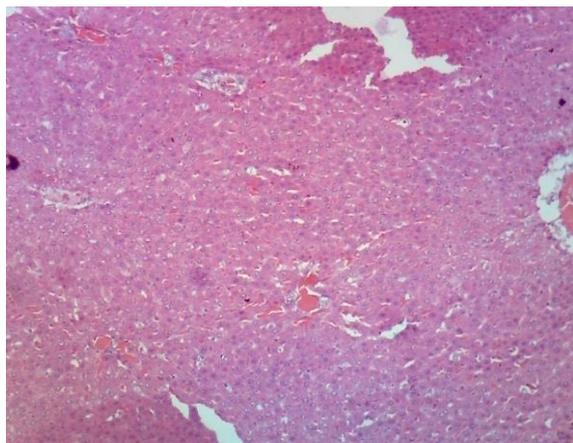


Fig. 2: Photomicrograph of liver of rats administered with allethrin 1.5g/kg BW at 21 day. showing slight change of vacuolation in nucleus, otherwise liver architecture and cells normal. H & E stain; 100X.

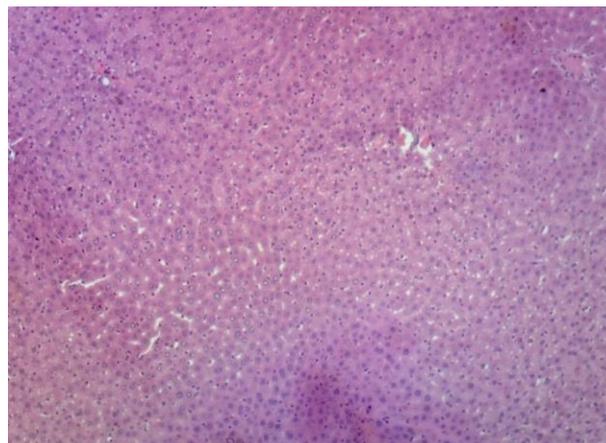


Fig. 3: Photomicrograph of liver of rats at 42 day (allethrin 1.5g/kg BW) showing vacuolar change in the cytoplasm and inflammatory reaction. H & E stain; 100X.

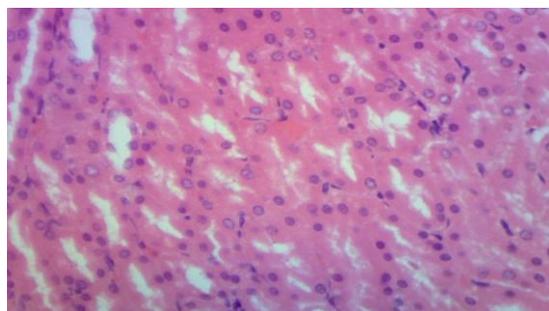


Fig. 4: Photomicrograph of kidney of rats at 21 day administered with allethrin 1.5g/kg BW showing condensation of the nucleus. H & E stain; 400X.

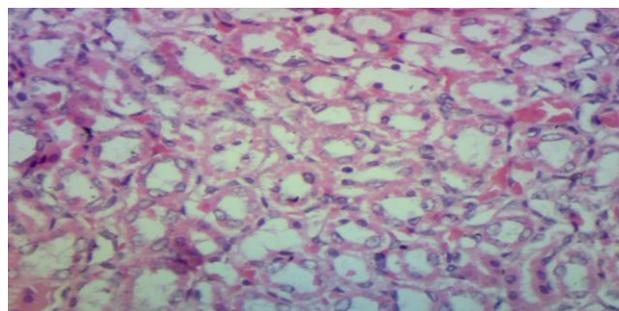


Fig. 5: Photomicrograph of kidney of mice at 42 day administered with allethrin 1.5 g/kg BW showing more necrotic changes in tubules and congestion in renal parenchyma. H & E stain; 400X.

4. DISCUSSION

Allethrin exposure is one of the most common and important public health risks in almost all regions of the world. Pyrethroids toxicity in animals is also considerable because it causes behavioral alterations and other pathological changes (Khan et al. 2009). Allethrin has ability to accumulate in different surfaces thus it can be present in household dust and can contaminate environment (Colt et al. 2004). Allethrin is found in almost all mosquito repellents and has therapeutic potential to control the spread of mosquito borne diseases like dengue and malaria which are responsible for million deaths annually in whole world (Idowu et al. 2013).

Nervous excitability observed in this study can be due to oxidative stress which causes lipid peroxidation of neuronal plasma membrane and production of lethal free radicals. Oxidative stress can cause various diseases by damaging the cellular components like cell membrane, fatty acids, proteins, RNA and DNA (Zhu et al. 2020). Similar hyper-excitability symptoms have also been reported previously in broiler chicks by Mashkooor et al. (2013). It has also been observed in last decades in mammals that toxicity is induced by production of free radicals (Zini et al. 1993). Reduction in hematological parameters in present study could be due to bone marrow depression as a consequence of allethrin toxicity. Increase in erythrocyte count could result from polycythemia and decrease in hemoglobin and red blood cells count has also been previously reported in rats (Anonymous 1988; Institoris et al. 1999). The cause of change in hematological values might be due to the toxic effect on hematopoietic system which is responsible for such alterations in hematological parameters. Mansee (1998) and Shakoori et al. (1992) also reported decreased hematological parameters in rats. The alteration in hematological parameters might have occurred due to direct depression of bone marrow (Iteire et al. 2017).

Srivastava et al. (2012) studied the genotoxic effect of allethrin in albino mice. They said that allethrin is a kind of pyrethroid having extensive use in the houses to control mosquitoes. Their study showed that it has mutagenic effect as well as neurotoxic effect in the target species. They checked genotoxic effect of allethrin by using

micronuclei induction assay and chromosomal aberration. Chromosomal abnormality and induction of micronucleus in mice bone marrow cells were increased significantly after administration of allethrin at dose rate of 25 and 50mg/kg BW. Using DNA alkaline unwinding assay, allethrin induced DNA damage was evaluated in mouse liver. They measured the level of 8 hydroxy 2 deoxy guanosine and confirmed that it has pro-oxidant potential. It has been confirmed by their study that gene p51, p53 and GADD45 mediated DNA damage. They completed that allethrin has pro-oxidant and genotoxic effect on albino mice.

In addition to above changes, mild changes in activities of liver has been reported after allethrin intoxication in male rats (Srivastava et al. 2006). The changes observed in present study could be due to lipid peroxidation because of reactive oxygen species generation (Vinoth et al. 2016; Sukmawati et al. 2019). According to Garba et al. (2007) kidneys showed proteinaceous casts within ducts and interstitial mononuclear cellular infiltration after allethrin intoxication in rats.

Conclusion: Allethrin induced clinico-hemato-pathological alterations in adult male albino rats, which may be due to toxic effect on hematopoietic system which is responsible for such alterations in hematological parameters or microscopic changes in adult albino rats. So, Allethrin being active ingredients of mosquito coils and other repellents is used extensively in houses to kill mosquitoes and can be harmful for human health if used more than needed. It is recommended to burn the coils only for two hours prior to enter the room and put it off when sitting or sleeping in that area to reduce the harmful effects described in this manuscript.

Author's Contribution: Research plan was conceived and guided by AK and MKS. Study was executed by QM, MFQ, AA, WE, SM and JM. Manuscript was written by QM, MFQ and TZC. All authors read and approve the final version of the manuscript.

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