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Hepatoprotective and Hypoglycemic Effect of *Aloe vera* on Streptozotocine Induced Diabetic Mice



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ABSTRACT

Diabetes mellitus is а clinical syndrome involving heterogeneous group of disorders, characterized by abnormally high blood glucose concentration, due to relative or absolute deficiency of insulin or resistance of the body cells to the action of insulin, often associated with altered metabolism of carbohydrate, protein and lipid with an increased risk of vascular and renal diseases. Traditional plant medicines or herbal formulations might offer a natural key to unfold diabetic complications. Aloe vera is an herb distributed throughout the world. The herb is used internally to combat most digestive problems, including constipation, poor appetite, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome as well as, asthma, diabetes, immune system enhancement, peptic ulcers. Diabetes is induced by streptozotocine administration followed by administration of Aloe vera gel 20 mg/kg. b.w for 2 weeks, 4 weeks, and 8 weeks. Mice is sacrificed and serum is collected for glucose, SGPT, SGOT, ALP and Total protein assay. In diabetic group SGPT, SGOT, ALP and Total protein were increased in many folds. Aloe vera reduces blood sugar level to some extent. Least restoration was observed in S.G.P.T and S.G.O.T. While ALP and total protein level were restored effectively in aloe vera administered group of mice. It is quite clear from study that aloe vera reduces blood glucose level and total protein effectively but did not maintain liver function effectively.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus is a clinical syndrome involving heterogeneous group of disorders, characterized by abnormally high blood glucose concentration, due to relative or absolute deficiency of insulin or resistance of the body cells to the action of insulin, often associated with altered metabolism of carbohydrate, protein and lipid with an increased risk of vascular and renal diseases ¹. Diabetes mellitus is the major endocrine disorder ², responsible for renal failure, blindness or diabetic cataract ³, poor metabolic control ⁴. Oxidative stress is a condition associated with increased rate of cellular damage induced by oxygen and oxygen-derived oxidants commonly known as reactive oxygen species. In a normal situation, plasma contains antioxidant mechanisms, which are likely to quench these ROS and protect against any likely damage ⁵. The plants are used in India has about 50,000 plant species and several thousands have been claimed to possess medicinal properties ⁶. The active principles of many plant species are isolated for direct use as drugs or pharmacological agents ⁷. Traditional plant medicines or herbal formulations might offer a natural key to unfold diabetic complications ⁸.

Aloe vera is an herb distributed throughout the world. The herb is used internally to combat most digestive problems, including constipation, poor appetite, colitis, irritable bowel syndrome as well as, asthma, diabetes, immune system enhancement, peptic ulcers. The active components of aloe gel are polysaccharides ⁹ and glycoprotein ¹⁰. Several medicinal plants exhibit antidiabetic activity, among these are a few species of *Aloe*. Previous reports showed antidiabetic activity of aloe extract ¹¹, latex and anthraquinones ^{12, 13} and gel ¹⁴.

Thus the present study is designed to study hepatoprotective and hypoglycemic potential of aloe vera in alloxan induced diabetic mice.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals: The mice were reared in our laboratory. The age group of mice selected for the study was 12 weeks old with 30±2 gm. b.w.

Chemicals: Streptozotocine, manufactured by Lobachem Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai was utilized for the experiment. Streptozotocine were administered at the rate of 100 mg/kg. b.w. intraperitoneally for induction of diabetes.

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Aloe vera gel is administered to diabetic group of mice at the rate of 20 mg/kg. b.w for 2 weeks, 4 weeks, and 8 weeks.

Study groups & sampling: The control group of 6 mice received distilled water as drinking water. The 'treatment' groups (n=6) received streptozotocine 100 mg/kg b.w by intra-peritoneal method once followed by eight weeks administration of aloe vera (20 mg/kg/b.w/day). Animals were sacrificed after the scheduled treatment. Serum was collected for SGPT, SGOT, ALP, total protein and glucose estimation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In control group of mice glucose level was 83.00 ± 2.30 mg/dl. In diabetic group of mice it was 327.0 ± 7.21 mg/dl. While in Aloe vera administered group of mice it was 261.3 ± 9.93 mg/dl, 207.3 ± 7.79 mg/dl and 162.3 ± 10.84 mg/dl (Graph: I).

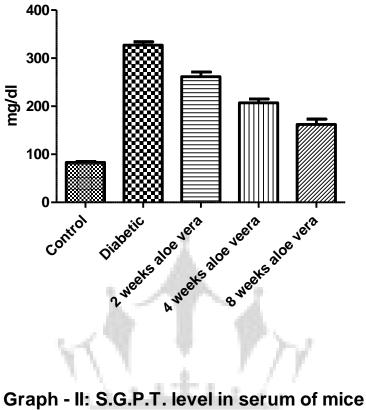
In control group of mice Serum Glutamate-Pyruvate Transaminase (S.G.P.T.) level was 22.00 \pm 1.73 U/L. In diabetic group of mice it was 284.0 \pm 5.13 U/L. While in Aloe vera administered group of mice it was 209.7 \pm 4.80 U/L, 183.3 \pm 4.33 U/L and 103.0 \pm 5.50 U/L(Graph: II).

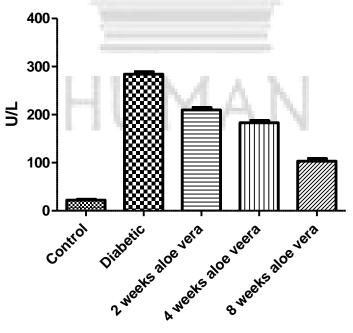
In control group of mice Serum Glutamate-Oxalocetic Transaminase (S.G.O.T) level was 25.00 \pm 2.30 U/L. In diabetic group of mice it was 78.67 \pm 4.33 U/L. While in Aloe vera administered group of mice it was 72.00 \pm 4.61 U/L, 55.33 \pm 3.84 U/L and 37.33 \pm 4.33 U/L (Graph: III).

In control group of mice A.L.P. level was 55.00 ± 1.52 U/L. In diabetic group of mice it was 89.33 ± 3.52 U/L. While in Aloe vera administered group of mice it was 77.33 ± 2.90 U/L, 69.67 ± 0.88 U/L and 61.67 ± 5.23 U/L (Graph: IV).

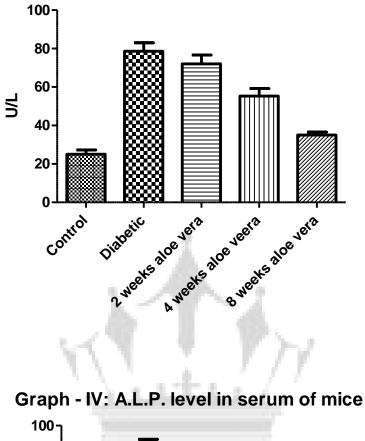
In control group of mice total protein level was 6.833 ± 0.23 mg/dl. In diabetic group of mice it was 14.77 ± 0.29 mg/dl. While in Aloe vera administered group of mice it was 11.07 ± 0.34 mg/dl, 9.267 ± 0.34 mg/dl and 8.467 ± 0.23 mg/dl (Graph: V).

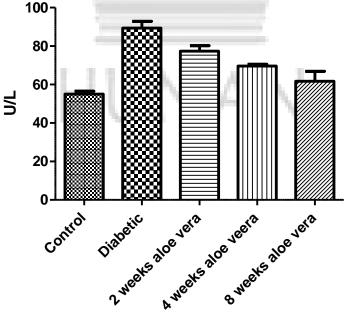
Graph - I: Glucose level in serum of mice

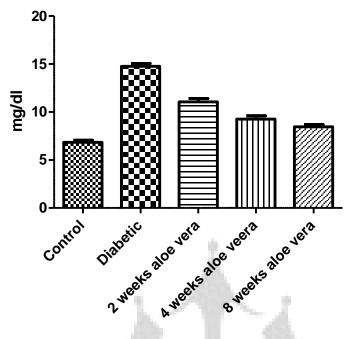




Graph - III : S.G.O.T. level in serum of mice







Graph - V: Total protein level in serum of mice

Diabetes mellitus increases the production of free radicals which cause damage to cellular proteins membrane lipids & nucleic acid & in long-term it triggers cell death pathway ^{15, 16}. In present study lipid peroxidation was also observed which is increased. Glucose level was increased many folds in present study. In present study S.G.P.T, S.G.O.T, A.L.P and Total protein were increased many folds.

In diabetes blood urea level increases & reason behind this is due to enhanced catabolism of both liver & plasma proteins. Cinnamon has hepatoprotective effect against liver injury & oxidative stress ¹⁷. Many recent scientific investigations have also confirmed the efficacy of plant preparations, few of which are remarkably effective ¹⁸. Aloe gel in streptozotocine-induced diabetic rats: both fresh and preserved aloe gel produced antihyperglycemic activity when the rats were given one tablespoonful, twice a day for at least one week ¹⁹. In present study restoration were observed in S.G.P.T, S.G.O.T., A.L.P. and Total protein was also restored effectively in aloe vera administered group of mice.

Oxidative stress in DM was thought to be a result of free radicals generated during autoxidation of glucose ²⁰. Increased levels of ROS in type 2 DM was implicated to contribute to a hypercoagulable state ²¹, and, most recently, evidence was provided for the accumulation of

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oxidation products prior to the development of diabetes 22 . The causes of enhanced free radical production are hyperglycemia 23 .

CONCLUSION

Thus it is concluded from study that aloe vera reduces blood sugar level to some extent. Least restoration was observed in S.G.P.T. and S.G.O.T. While ALP and Total protein level were restored effectively in aloe vera administered group of mice. It is quite clear from study that aloe vera reduces blood glucose level and total protein effectively but did not maintain liver function effectively.

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