ANTIULCER ACTIVITY OF AEGLE MARMELOS Linn

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Received: 13.8.2001                                   Accepted: 10.2.2002

ABSTRACT: Aegle marmelos Linn is a common plant used to treat many disease Conditions in Indian traditional systems of medicine. The present study was undertaken to findout a scientific validation for the efficacy of Aegle marmelos against gastric ulcer. Aqueous extract of Aegle marmelos leaves was prepared and used for investigation. A daily does of 1 gm/kg body weight of the extract administered orally for 21 days. The volume of the gastric secretion, ulcer lesion count, pepsin content, PH, total acidity, hexose and hexosamine content were estimated. The result indicated a significant reduction in the ulcer lesion count, volume of gastric juice and acidity and increase in pH and hexosamine after treatment with extract. However the pepsin and hexose content not significantly altered. Histopathological studies were conducted to support the antiulcer study.

INTRODUCTION

Aegle marmelos (Rutaceae) is known as Vilvam1 in Tamil. The drug posses2 astringent, digestive, laxative, antiulcer, febrifuge and antifertility activities. It is reported that Aegle marmelos posses anti-diabetic3, and used in piles4. Inspite of its uses in ulcer no systematic studies on antiulcer activity have been reported. Hence an effort has been made to establish antiulcer activity in the leaves of Aqueous extract of Aegle marmelos.

The plant material used in this study were collected from Melmaruvathur, Tamilnadu and identified by Dr. R. Neelamegam, M.Sc., M.Phill, Ph.D., Department of Botany, Hindu college, Nagercoil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Male wistar rats weighing about 150-250 gm were obtained from king institute, Guindy, Chennai, India for the study. The animals were maintained on a commercial pellected food (Supplied by M/S Hindustan lever foods, Bangalore) and water ad libitum till the end of the experimental period.

The experimental animals were divided into three groups of six animals in each group. Group I served as control, ulcer was induced in group II rats. Rats of group III were pretreated with Aegle marmelos (1gm/kg body weight for a period of 21 days) before induction of ulcer On 22nd day immediately after aspirin treatment, pylorous ligation5 was performed under ether anaesthesiaon 36 hour fasted rat. Four hours after pylorous ligation the animals were sacrificed by giving over dosage of ether. The stomachs were removed and opened along with greater curvature and the gastric lesions were observed the gastric contents collected into a small beaker centrifuged and then it
was subjected to various investigations like volume of gastric juice, pH, total acidity, Pepsin, hexose and hexosamine.

Gastric contents were assayed for total acidity by titration against 0.01 N NaOH to pH 8.0 using phenolphthalein as an indicator. The amount of HCl was calculated and expressed as µ Eq/4hrs. Pepsin activity of the gastric juice was determined and expressed in terms of moles of tyrosine liberated per 4 hrs gastric juice. Other parameters measured were total hexose and hexosamine.

**Histopathology**

Stomach were excised and fixed in 10% buffered neutral formalin and then fixed in bovine solution, were processed for paraffin embedding following the standard microtechnique. Sections of the stomach stained with alum–haematoxylin and eosin, were observed microscopically for histopathological changes.

**Statistical Analysis**

Student ‘T’ test was used for statistical analysis of data. The level of significance were evaluated with p values (p<0.001).

**Results**

From the Table, it can be observed that the number of lesions in aspirin+ pylorus ligated (aspirin+PL) group was significantly high and the Aegle marmelos pretreated group depicted marked reduction. The volume of gastric juice, total acidity and pH increased in ulcerated group. The Aegle marmelos pretreated group made. The pepsin activity and hexose was insignificant in the experimental groups. The level of hexosamine content in gastric juice significantly decreased when compared to the control and Aegle marmelos treated group. Histopathology of the induced ulcer group II shows gastric mucosa with superficial erosion, fragmented and distorted gland and inflammatory infiltrate in the lamina Propria there are character of the early stage of gastric ulcer. The drug treated group III shows the rebuilding of architecture of the gastrice mucosa as that of normal control groupI.

**Discussion**

In the present study Aegle marmelos have been shown to posses antiulcer activity against experimentally induced ulcer models, it has shown as significant reduction in the gastric lesions of the asprin treated pylorus ligated group of animals. The severity of ulcer can be gauged by assessing the number of lesions present on the gastric surface of the gastric lumen. Re-epitheliazation of the gastric mucosa results in the disappearance of lesions were evident for the potential of the drug. When the mucosal damage is acute and confined to the epithelium with the basal lamina remaining intact complete repair will occurs through replacement of necrotic cells migrating form the gastric pits. Acruce aqueous leaf extract of Aegle marmelos induce re-epitheliazation of the gastric mucosa suggesting its antiulcerogenic property.

The beneficial antiulcerogenic effect of crude aqueous leaf extract on aspirin plus pylorus ligation induced ulcer in rats clearly indicated its cytoprotective activity, Re epithelisation of gastric mucosa and aid in the tissue repair process were also shown in the histological section of the drug treated group. It may thus be hypothesized the aqueous extract of Aegle marmelos plays an important role in the antiulcer activity. Further studies required to elucidate the active principles present in the crude
aqueous extract of Aegle marmelos and its ulcer.
mechanism of prevention of the gastric

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Table: Effect of Aegle Marmelos against aspirin+ pylorus Ligated (PL) ulcers in rats.

| Parameters                                    | Control   | Ulcerated  | Pretreated with aegle marmelous |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Ulcerative lesions(n)                         | 0         | 21 ± 1.9 *** | 5 ± 0.43 ***                    |
| Pepsin activity (moles of tyrosine/4hr)       | 620 ± 46  | 626 ± 53   | 615 ± 50                        |
| Volume of gastric content (ml/4hr)            | 5 ± 0.06  | 8.2 ± 0.09 *** | 5 ± 0.15 ***                   |
| pH                                            | 3         | 2          | 3                               |
| Total acidity (µEq/4hr)                       | 7 ± 0.17  | 12 ± 0.14 *** | 8 ± 0.14 ***                   |
| Hexose (µg/ml)                                | 371 ± 30  | 357 ± 29   | 365 ± 27                        |
| Hexosamine (µg/ml)                            | 173 ± 12  | 99 ± 0.08 *** | 149 ± 11 ***                   |

All values represent mean ± SEM of 6 animals in each group.
***P< 0.001 control versus ulcer, ulcer versus ulcer treated.