Polyherbal Formulation for Kidney and Liver Protection

S J Kabilan, R Baskar, G Poorani

Abstract: The objectives of the study were to assess the potential of herbal formulation made up of Wedelia chinensis leaves and Boerhaavia diffusa roots in possessing activities like nephroprotectivity and hepatoprotectivity. Nephroprotective and hepatoprotective activity was evaluated using MTT cytotoxicity assay using mammalian cell culture. The results of the hepatoprotective and nephroprotective activities showed that the formulation mixture of herbs Wedelia chinensis and Boerhaavia diffusa roots is an excellent source of organ stimulator with high therapeutic importance. The hepatoprotective and nephroprotective properties make this formulation a unique one focusing on liver and kidney diseases.

Keywords: Hepatoprotectivity, Nephroprotectivity, Polyherbal formulation

I. INTRODUCTION

Nephroprotectivity is an activity of any compound protecting the kidney cells and functions [2]. Likewise, hepatoprotectivity was to protect the liver cells from harmful substances [7]. The above mentioned herbal plants contain few phytoconstituents that possess the ability to act as a nephroprotectant and hepatoprotectant [10]. They play a major role in maintenance of these organs and preventing them from getting damaged [19]. They also boost up their performance and have a cleansing activity on them [20]. They prevent aging of cells present in those organs keeping them healthy for longer time [21].

*Wedelia chinensis* (Manjalkarisalai in Tamil), Asteraceae is a well reputed herbal medicine in Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani system of traditional medicine. Recent studies show the presence of diterpenes, flavonoids, triterpenes, phytoestrogens and saponins. It is also reported to possess anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, analgesic, hepatoprotective, antimicrobial, CNS depressant, wound healing, antistress and anticancer activity [5].

*Boerhaavia diffusa* (Mookirattaikeerai in Tamil) is one of the well known medicinal plants that are used to treat variety of human diseased conditions as mentioned in Ayurveda, Charaka Samhita, and Sushrita Samhita. Huge variety of phytochemicals like flavonoids, alkaloids, glycosides, rotenoids, steroids, triterpenoids, lipids, lignans, carbohydrates, proteins, and glycoproteins etc have been reported from the herb. The promising therapeutical effects of this plant include diuretic, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-fibrinolytic, immuno-modulatory, anti-diabetic, immuno-suppressive, analgesic, anti-lymphoproliferative and used for the treatment of TB [11].

The aim of this study is to develop an herbal formulation that possesses nephroprotective and hepatoprotective activity.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A. Chemicals

DMEM medium, Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), Trypsin, Saline, H2O2.

B. Sample Collection and Extraction

Sample Collection

*Wedelia chinensis* leaves and *Boerhaavia diffusa* root powder were collected from an FSSAI approved herbal powder manufacturer from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. All herbs were stored in air-tight, light resistant container for further use. The samples were labeled as the *Wedelia chinensis* leaves (WC), *Boerhaavia diffusa* (BD) and Formulation mix.

Sample extraction

About 20g of powdered mix of these herbs was successively extracted with 150 ml of distilled water. Then it is allowed to evaporate in open air to obtain aqueous extracts. The extracts were filtered using membrane filter.

C. Determination of Hepatoprotective activity

Human liver HepG2 cells were exposed to a medium containing H2O2 (1mM) along with /without various concentrations of the formulation (100, 200, 300, 400 and 500 mg/ml). Then cytotoxicity was assessed by estimating the viability of HepG2 cells by MTT reduction assay. HepG2 cells were grown in DMEM culture medium and made into single-cell suspension and seeded into a 96-well flat bottom plate with 1 × 104 cells per well. After 48 hr incubation, 100 μL of 1mM H2O2 was added to each well followed by the addition of 100 μL diluted extract at varying concentrations to the appropriate wells and the plates were incubated for further 48 hr at 37°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO2. Supernatant was removed from each well, and 100 μL of MTT (0.5 mg/mL) was added. MTT enters the cell’s mitochondria, where it is reduced to an insoluble, colored (dark purple) formazan product. The cells were then solubilized with 100 μL of an organic solvent DMSO and the released, solubilized formazan reagent is measured spectrophotometrically. Hepatoprotective activities of the formulation extracts are measured against the toxicity caused by H2O2 on the liver cells and the readings were obtained at 540 nm (Surendran et al., 2011).

D. Determination of in-vitro nephroprotective activity

Fresh African green monkey normal kidney cells (Vero) were grown in DMEM culture medium and made into
single-cell suspension and seeded into a 96-well flat bottom plate with $1 \times 10^4$ cells per well. After 24 hr incubation, 100 µL of 1mM H$_2$O$_2$ was added to each well followed by the addition of 100 µL diluted extract at varying concentrations to the appropriate wells and the plates were incubated for further 24 hr at 37°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO$_2$. Supernatant was removed from each well, and 100 µL of MTT (0.5 mg/mL) was added. MTT enters the cell’s mitochondria, where it is reduced to an insoluble, colored (dark purple) formazan product. The cells are then solubilized with 100 µL of an organic solvent DMSO and the released, solubilized formazan reagent is measured spectrophotometrically. Nephroprotective activities of the formulation extracts are measured against the toxicity caused by H$_2$O$_2$ on the liver cells and the readings were obtained at 540 nm (Srinivasan et al., 2015).

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Determination of Hepatoprotective activity

Hepatotoxicity was induced by H$_2$O$_2$ in HepG2 cell lines. Formulation extract has been evaluated for its hepatoprotectiveness. The presence of phytoconstituents in formulation mix extract has inhibited the induced hepatotoxicity.

| S.No | Test Concentration (µg/ml) | % of cell death in presence of formulation + H$_2$O$_2$ |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 100                      | 66.27 ± 2.68                                       |
| 2    | 200                      | 54.25 ± 2.63                                       |
| 3    | 300                      | 49.85 ± 3.51                                       |
| 4    | 400                      | 43.98 ± 5.3                                        |
| 5    | 500                      | 35.19 ± 5.85                                       |
| H$_2$O$_2$ toxic control |                                           | 88.56 ± 1.75 |

The above data shows that with increasing concentration of formulation, the cell death has been reduced, which shows the protective activity of the formulation.

#### Table II: Hepatoprotective activity of formulation mix over toxicant in HepG2 cell line

| S.No | Test Concentration (µg/ml) | % Protection offered over toxicant control |
|------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 100                      | 25.16 ± 3.03                             |
| 2    | 200                      | 38.74 ± 2.98                             |
| 3    | 300                      | 43.70 ± 3.97                             |
| 4    | 400                      | 50.33 ± 5.98                             |
| 5    | 500                      | 60.26 ± 6.61                             |

From the table, it is evident that the H$_2$O$_2$ toxicity was inhibited with increasing concentration of formulation.

#### B. Determination of nephroprotective activity

Nephrotoxicity was induced by H$_2$O$_2$ in Vero cell lines. Formulation mix extract has been evaluated for its nephroprotectiveness. The presence of various phytoconstituents and minerals in formulation mix extract has inhibited the induced nephrototoxicity (Ahmed et al., 2010).

| S.No | Test Concentration (µg/ml) | % of cell death in presence of formulation + H$_2$O$_2$ |
|------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 100                      | 89.63 ± 0.44                                       |
| 2    | 200                      | 88.34 ± 0.77                                       |
| 3    | 300                      | 83.41 ± 0.44                                       |
| 4    | 400                      | 67.09 ± 1.18                                       |
| 5    | 500                      | 63.21 ± 1.18                                       |
| H$_2$O$_2$ toxic control |                                           | 93.26 ± 0.44 |

The above data shows that with increasing concentration of formulation, the cell death has been reduced, which shows the protective activity of the formulation.

#### Table IV: Nephroprotective activity of formulation mix over toxicant in Vero cell line
The PC50 (Protective Concentration 50%) is 732.06μg/ml.

It has been shown from Table IV, that effective protection of about 50% over toxicant control has been attained at 732.06μg/ml concentration (Kiruba et al., 2014). *Boerhaaviadiffusa* possess nephroprotective activity and contains phytoconstituents having nephroprotective activity which results in moderate nephroprotective activity over the H2O2 toxicity in Vero cells.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

The results of hepatoprotective and nephroprotective activities showed that the formulation mixture of herbs *Wedelia chinensis* and *Boerhaaviadiffusa* roots is an excellent source of organ protector with high therapeutical importance. The hepatoprotective and nephroprotective properties make this formulation a unique one focusing on liver and kidney diseases. It may therefore be recommended for people to prevent and get rid of kidney and liver related disorders.

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Figure 2: % nephroprotectivity of formulation mix over toxic control

| S.No | Test Concentration (μg/ml) | % Protection offered over toxicant control |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1    | 100                       | 3.89 ± 0.48                              |
| 2    | 200                       | 5.28 ± 0.83                              |
| 3    | 300                       | 10.56 ± 0.48                             |
| 4    | 400                       | 28.06 ± 1.27                             |
| 5    | 500                       | 32.22 ± 1.28                             |
AUTHORS PROFILE

S J Kabilan, completed his B.Tech (Biotechnology) at Kalasalingam University and M.Tech (Biotechnology) at Kumaraguru College of Technology (Affiliated to Anna University). Both the Degrees completed with First class with Distinction. Also, pursuing PhD in the area of Herbal Drug Research.

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Recent Publications:
- **Baskar, R., Akshaya, S.B., Akshitha, R., Dhilip Kumar, G., Poorani, G.**(2018).Evaluation of antioxidant and phytochemical activity in solvent extracts of Delonix regia.*International Journal of Green Pharmacy*, Volume 12(3), July-September issue, S607-S616.
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- **PooraniGurumallesh,** **Baskar Ramakrishnan** and **BhaarathiDhurai** (2019). A novel metalloprotease from banana peel and its biochemical characterization. *International Journal of Biological Macromolecules*, 134, 527-535 *(Impact factor: 4.7)*

Notable Publications:
- **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL MACROMOLECULES** (2019) IF 4.78 A novel metalloprotease from banana peel and its biochemical characterization
- **MATERIAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING C** (2019) IF 5.08 Biological synergy of greener gold nanoparticles by using Coleus aromaticus leaf extract
- **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL MACROMOLECULES** (2019) IF 4.78 A systematic reconsideration on proteases
- **PROCESS BIOCHEMISTRY** (2019) IF 2.88 Green synthesis of anisotropic silver nanoparticles from the aqueous leaf extract of Dodonaea viscosa with their Antibacterial and Anticancer activities
- **JOURNAL OF PHOTOCHEMISTRY AND PHOTOBIOLG Y** B: BIOLOGY (2018) IF 4.06 Improved Conductivity and Antibacterial activity of poly (2- aminothiophenol) - silver nanocomposite against human pathogens
- **JOURNAL OF MICROENCAPSLATION** (2016) IF 2.04 Formulation, characterization, in vitro and in vivo evaluation of castor oil based self-nano emulsifying levosulpiride delivery systems