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Efficacy of nano curcumin in F-2 isoprostanes in male rats treated with Cisplatin and Methotrexate as chemotherapy drugs

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chemotherapy drugs**

Abstract

Purpose This work is based on nanoparticulation technique for preparation of curcumin nanoparticles (CURNPs) and study the effect of CURNPs (30 ,60 mg/kg b.w) as antioxidants on the nephrotoxicity induced by cisplatin (CDDP) (6 mg/kg b.w i.p) and methotrexate (MTX) (20 mg/kg b.w i.p).

Methodology Physicochemical characterization of CURNPs was studied by Zetasizer Nano ZS, TEM and BET surface area. Urea, creatinine, SOD, CAT and F-2Isoprostanes (F-2 isoPs) in serum were estimated. Also, morphological changes of kidney were studied.

Findings The results indicated that the CDDP and MTX induced increase of urea, creatinine and F-2IsoPs concentrations and decline of serum antioxidant enzymes (SOD and CAT) activities. On the other hand, urea, creatinine and F-2IsoPs, were reduced and (SOD and CAT) activities were increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the CURNPs (30 ,60 mg/kg b.w) + CDDP/ MTX treated groups. Moreover, CURNPs (30 ,60 mg/kg b.w) + CDDP/ MTX treated groups resulted in a marked

of morphological protection against the drugs induced nephrotoxicity and confirmed the pathological improvement in the kidney tissue.

Originality/value This study concluded that CURNPs has a strong potential to be used as a strong antioxidant in CDDP and MTX nephrotoxicity. Most importantly, CURNPs (60 mg/kg b.w) was much more effective and better nephroprotective agent than CURNPs (30 mg/kg b.w). These findings provide further understanding for the possible therapeutic effects of CURNPs in further pre-clinical and clinical research.

Keywords Curcumin nanoparticles (CURNPs), F-2isoprostans (F-2isoPs), Cisplatin (CDDP), Methotrexate (MTX), Nephrotoxicity.

Introduction

Chemotherapeutic agents are large, broad class of pharmaceutical agents used to fight cancers and other disease. Chemotherapy induced apoptosis generally results in ROS/RNS generation (Kannan and Jain 2000). Fabbro et al, (2006) said that Generation of ROS/RNS gives rise to drug-induced toxicity as a result of damage to healthy tissue. The CDDP and MTX are employed for the treatment of solid tumors, deserves investigation because toxicity has been assigned to each of the drugs. MTX is an antimetabolite and antifolate drug used widely as a cytotoxic chemotherapeutic agent for treatment of leukemia (Jahovic et al., 2003), many kinds of cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, immunological abnormalities and systemic inflammation has been widely used (Koyama et al., 2003; Turesson and Matteson 2006). On the other hand, MTX treatment is associated with a number of adverse reactions, including, pneumonitis, nephrotoxicity and hepatotoxicity (HSU et al., 2003). Nephrotoxicity is an adverse effect of MTX, more than 90% of MTX is cleared by the kidneys (Izzedine et al., 2005). MTX treatment at high doses and in increased lipid peroxidation in the kidney as revealed by elevated malondialdehyde (MDA) may cause renal failure (Abelson et al., 1983). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are implicated in the pathogenesis of MTX-induced renal damage (Devrim et al., 2005; Öktem et al., 2006; Abraham et al., 2010).

Pabla and Dong (2008) reported that CDDP (cis-diamminedichloro platinum II) is a chemotherapeutic agent that is used for the treatment of a wide variety of cancers, but nephrotoxicity is a major dose-limiting side-effect (Yao

et al., 2007). It has been reported to enhance, superoxide anions (O_2^-) (Davis et al., 2001), peroxy nitrite anions (Srivastava et al., 1996), hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) (Baek et al., 2003), and hydroxyl radicals ($OH\cdot$) via mobilization of iron from renal cortical mitochondria (Baliga et al., 1997; Durak et al., 2002). Thus, CDDP-induced nephrotoxicity is closely associated with an increase in lipid peroxidation in the kidney tissues (Sugihara and Gemba 1986; Hannemann and Baumann 1988; Sadzuka et al., 1992). Moreover, CDDP induced glutathione depletion is a determinant step in oxidative stress in kidney tissue that leads to nephrotoxicity (Jin-Gang and Lindup 1993). Also, Weijl et al, (1998) suggested that CDDP chemotherapy induces a fall in plasma antioxidant levels, which may reflect a failure of the antioxidant defense mechanism against oxidative damage induced by commonly used antitumor drugs.

Curcumin (CUR) is a dietary antioxidant derived from turmeric (*Curcuma longa*, Zingiberaceae) and has been known since ancient times to possess therapeutic properties. It is able to scavenge $O_2\cdot^-$ (Tuba et al., 2008; Sreejayan and Rao 1997), $OH\cdot$, H_2O_2 (Tuba et al., 2008), singlet oxygen (Das and Das 2002), nitric oxide (Kim et al., 2003) and peroxy nitrite (Cohly et al., 1998). Phenolic groups in the structure of CUR (Fig.1) explains its ability to react with ROS and RNS and might probably be one of the mechanisms through which CUR treatment protects the epithelial cells of renal tubules (LLC-PK1) from oxidative damage induced by H_2O_2 (Cohly et al., 1998). The indirect antioxidant capacity of CUR is defined by

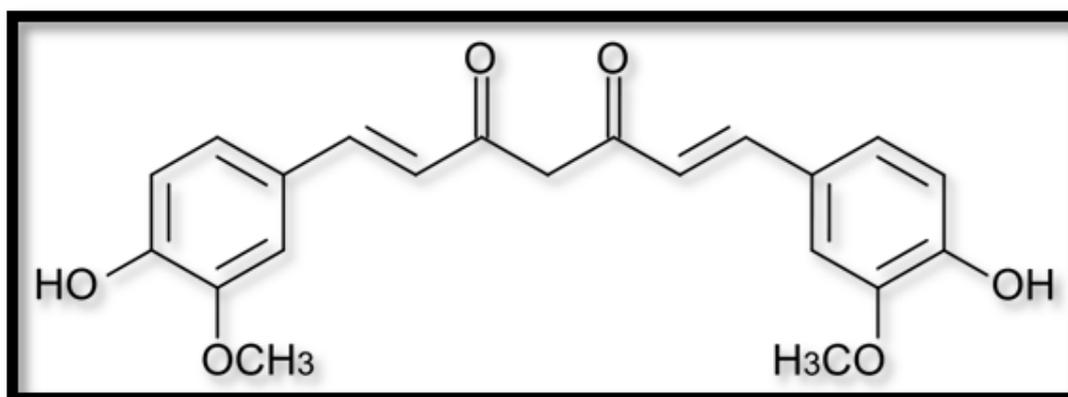
its ability to induce the expression of cytoprotective proteins such as superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (CAT) (Panchal et al., 2008).

F2-IsoPs are stable prostaglandin-like compounds formed from the peroxidation of arachidonic acid and present in detectable quantities in normal biological tissues and fluids, are unaffected by lipid content of the diet (Roberts and Jason, 2000). As F2-IsoPs levels are modulated by antioxidant status they are ideal markers of oxidative stress (Fam and Morrow 2003; Grosso et al., 2011; Il'Yasova et al., 2011). Also, F2-IsoPs levels have been shown to increase substantially in animal models of oxidant injury. The ability to quantify F2-IsoPs has allowed exploration of the role free radicals play in the pathophysiology of numerous human diseases (Roberts and Jason, 2000; Fam and Morrow 2003; Grosso et al., 2011; Ye et al., 2007). Il'Yasova et al, (2010) studied urinary F2-IsoPs in 23 breast cancer patients receiving doxorubicin

and they found, the clinical model of oxidative assault revealed that F2-IsoPs is a reliable biomarker for monitoring oxidative status during chemotherapy treatment. Protas et al, (2010) found elevated F2-IsoPs in 38 children receiving chemotherapy for leukemia, suggesting that neurotoxicity during treatment may be related to oxidative stress.

However, we weren't able to find any study evaluating F2-IsoPs concentrations in nanocurcumin with chemotherapy induced nephrotoxicity. The main objective of this study was to describe biochemical changes in oxidative stress, measured by the biomarkers F2-IsoPs, SOD, CAT and renal functions tests (urea and creatinine) concentrations in serum of male rats undergoing CDDP and MTX drugs as a marker of chemotherapy-induced oxidative stress. It also considered to study histopathological of kidney tissue undergoing chemotherapy.

Figure 1. Chemical structure of Curcumin



Materials and Methods

Materials

Poly (D,L-lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) (Resomer R503H; MW 35–40 kDa), poly (vinyl alcohol) (PVA) (MW 30–70 kDa), High-performance liquid chromatography-grade ethanol, and distilled water were procured from J.T. Baker (now Avantor Performance materials, Phillipsburg, NJ). Cisplatin, Methotrexate and curcumin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Poole, UK).

Methods

Preparation of curcumin nanoparticles
The homogeneous solution was obtained during dissolve commercial CUR (7.5 mg) and PLGA (50 mg) in 2.5 ml of ethyl acetate and stirred at 1,000 rpm for 30 min at room temperature. PVA (50 mg), used as a stabilizer, was dissolved in 5 ml distilled water (Devadasu et al., 2011).

Characterization of curcumin nanoparticles

Particle size was determined by dynamic light scattering (DLS) using Zetasizer Nano ZS (Malvern Instruments Ltd., Malvern, UK).

Nanoparticles were characterized for size and morphology using an JEOL-1210 transmission electron microscope (TEM) (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) operating at 60 kV.

The specific surface area per mass unit (m^2g^{-1}) was determined by means of Brunauer, Emmet and Teller (BET) analysis (adsorption of nitrogen in cryogenic condition) using a Micromeritics Gemini V instrument.

Biological methods

Male adult rats (54 animals weighing 200–250g) were obtained from the animal house in University of Dammam. Rats were housed in individual cages with screen bottoms and fed on basal diet (corn starch 70%, casein 10%, corn seed oil 10%, cellulose 5%, salt mixture 4% and vitamins mixture 1%) for ten days. Rats were kept under standard conditions of temperature ($21 \pm 0.5^\circ$) and relative humidity (55 ± 5) with 12h light/12h dark cycle. After equilibration, rats were weighted and divided into 9 groups (six animals per each) everyone was assigned to one of the eleven diet groups. Group 1 used as control (2ml saline orally) once daily for five consecutive days, Group 2 was received CURNPs (60 mg/ kg b.w orally) once daily for five consecutive days, Group 3 was treated with single dose of CDDP (6 mg/ kg b.w) i.p injection + CURNPs (60 mg/ kg b.w orally) daily for five consecutive days, Group 4 was treated with single dose of MTX (20 mg/ kg b.w) i.p injection + CURNPs (60 mg/ kg b.w orally) daily for five consecutive days, Group 5 received CURNPs (30 mg/ kg b.w orally) once daily for five consecutive days, Group 6 was treated with single dose of CDDP (6 mg/ kg b.w) i.p injection + CURNPs (30 mg/ kg b.w orally) daily for five consecutive days, Group 7 was treated with single dose of MTX (20 mg/ kg b.w) i.p injection + CURNPs (30 mg/ kg b.w orally) daily for five consecutive days, Group 8 was injected intraperitoneally (i.p) with single dose of CDDP (6 mg/ kg b.w), Group 9 was injected intraperitoneally with single dose of MTX (20 mg/ kg b.w). On the sixth day, the animals of each group were killed by decapitation. Blood samples were collected from the orbital plexus by mean of heparinized capillary glass tubes. Each sample was placed into a dry clean centrifuge tube and centrifuged $1500 \times g$ for 30 min. at $4^\circ C$ to obtain serum.

Biochemical assays

Urea and Creatinine assays

Serum urea was determined according to Fawcett and Soctt (1960) and creatinine was determined according to the method of Barthesand Bohemer, (1972).

Superoxide dismutase (SOD) and Catalase (CAT) assay

The enzymatic activity of SOD was measured as described by Ohkuma et al, (1982) and CAT activity was assayed by the method of Luck (1963). F2-Isoprostanes (F2-IsoPs) assay F2-IsoPs were measured using a competitive enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA) kit according to instructions (Cayman Chemical, Ann Arbor, MI) (Morrow and Roberts 1997).

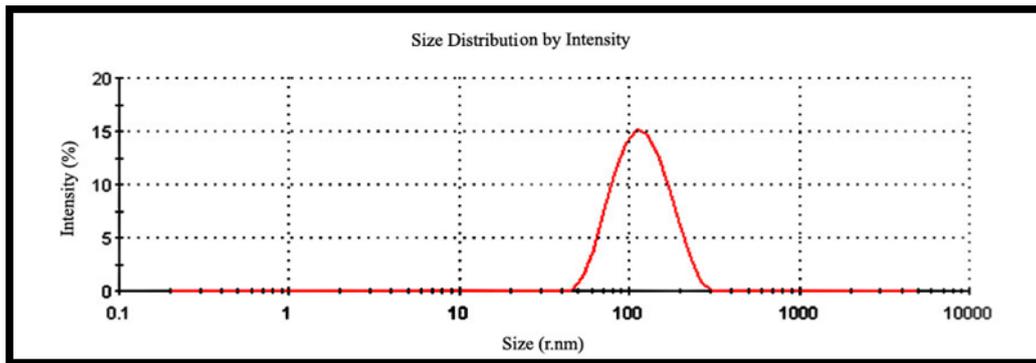
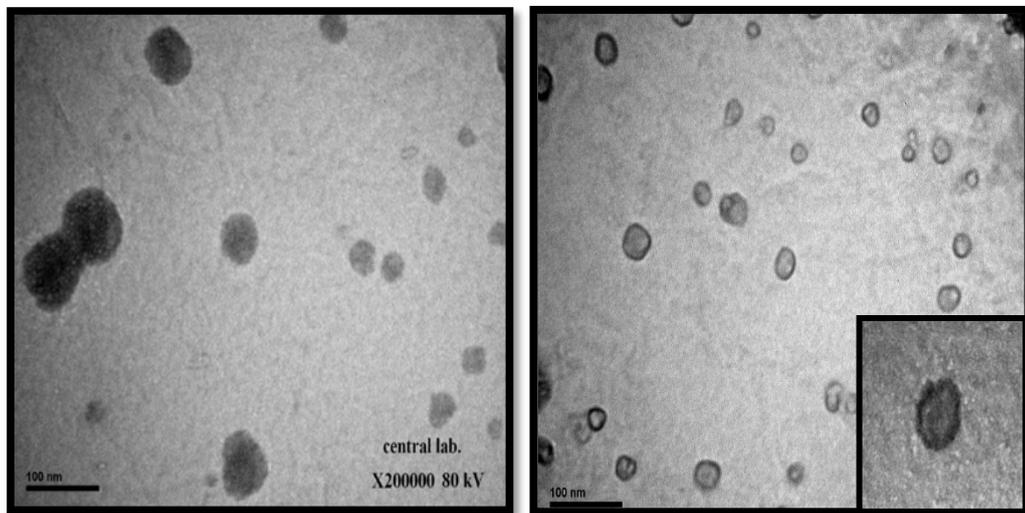
Histopathological Examination

For microscopic evaluation, kidneys were fixed in 10% neutral phosphate buffered formalin solution. Following dehydration in an ascending series of ethanol (70, 80, 96, 100%), tissue samples were cleared in xylene and embedded in paraffin. Tissue sections of 5 μ m were stained with hematoxylin-eosin (H-E). A minimum of 10 fields for each kidney slide were examined and assigned for severity of changes by an observer blinded to the treatments of the animals. Statistical Analysis Results were expressed as mean SEM. The intergroup variation was measured by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Fischer's LSD test. Statistical significance was considered at ($P < 0.05$). The statistical analysis was done using the Jandel Sigma Stat Statistical Software version 2.0.

Results and Discussion

Characterization of CURNPs

The particle size analysis was performed by DLS (Fig. 2). DLS of the aqueous dispersion of CURNPs revealed the formation of nanoparticles with an average hydrodynamic diameter of 102.3 nm. Using Homogenization for (30 minutes) on (25000 rpm) may had a big role in getting the size of a nano small particle, 102.3 nm as indicated by measurements of Zeta in the form of fig 2, which was obtained successfully small particle size compared to the size (237 ± 6) indicated by the study of Devadasu et al, (2011). This can be explained as a result of high energy resulting from the Homogenization process, which affect the converted from micro scale to nano scale. Also, increase the time required for this process and increase the number of courses has led to increase the rate of forming particles and thus to obtain nanoparticles much smaller (Feczko et al., 2008; Shi et al., 2011). The morphological examination of CURNPs was performed using a TEM (Fig. 3). It showed that the most of CURNPs have a good smooth spherical shape with a uniform size distribution, and the particle size was in the range of (2-100 nm). The particles are characterized as being uniform somewhat in terms of size and shape. This is due to the use of the homogenization process, which plays an important role in the emergence of symmetric molecules form. The surface area of original CUR and CURNPs were performed by BET. Original CUR surface area was 55.43 m²/g. On the other hand, surface area of CURNPs was 667.79 m²/g. The increased in surface area of CURNPs might be due to the decreased in particle size of CURNPs. Similar findings were also observed by other studies (Shi et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2009).

Figure 2. Size characterization of Curcumin nanoparticles**Figure 3.** TEM image of Curcumin nanoparticles

Biological study

Effect of CURNPs on Urea and Creatinine

Table 1 shows the effect of CURNPs on serum urea and creatinine. The concentrations of urea and creatinine were significantly increased ($p < 0.05$) in the CDDP (6 mg/kg b.w) treated group (PC1) (114.61 mg/dl) and (1.46 mg/dl), respectively, compared to negative control (NC) (24.44 mg/dl) and (0.74 mg/dl), respectively. Serum urea and creatinine in groups treated with CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + CDDP were reduced to (38.24 mg/dl and 81.29 mg/dl) in urea and (0.74 mg/dl and 0.94 mg/dl) in creatinine concen-

trations, respectively, with respect to the PC1.

The concentrations of urea and creatinine were significantly increased ($p < 0.05$) in the MTX (20 mg/kg b.w) treated group (PC2) (240.43 mg/dl) and (2.05 mg/dl), respectively, compared to NC (24.44 mg/dl) and (0.74 mg/dl), respectively. On the other hand, serum urea and creatinine in groups treated with CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + MTX were decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) compared to PC2. It observed (31.07 mg/dl and 93.14 mg/dl) in urea concentration and (0.83 mg/dl, 1.01 mg/dl) in creatinine concentration, respectively.

Table 1. Effect of CURNPs (30 ,60mg/kg b.w) on serum Urea and Creatinine concentrations in male rats treated with Cisplatin (6 mg/kg b.w) and Methotrexate (20 mg/kg b.w).

Treatments	Urea (mg/dl)	Creatinine(mg/dl)
Negative control NC	0.50±24.44	0.01±0.74
CURNPs 60mg	22.72±0.65	0.71±0.01
CURNPs 60mg + CDDP	0.84±38.24	0.01±0.74
CURNPs 60mg + MTX	31.70±1.31	0.83±0.00
CURNPs 30mg	0.37±23.25	0.00±0.75
CURNPs 30mg + CDDP	81.59±0.75	0.94±0.01
CURNPs 30mg + MTX	0.50±93.14	0.01±1.01
CDDP PC1	114.61±1.75	1.46±0.02
MTX PC2	0.97±240.43	0.05±2.05

Each value represents mean \pm SD of six animals, CURNPs = curcumin nanoparticles, CDDP (PC1) = cisplatin (positive control 1), MTX (PC2) = Methotrexate (positive control 2), statistically significant at $P < 0.05$ as compared to negative control (NC) (One-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD test).

Our results are corroborated by previous studies reported by other investigators on CDDP induced nephrotoxicity in normal rats (Kersten et al., 1998; Appenroth et al., 1997). It has been suggested that binding of CDDP to the renal base transport system and the following peroxidation of membrane lipids may account for its nephrotoxicity (Safirstein et al., 1984). It has been suggested that oxidative and nitrosative stresses are the two main cascades involved in CDDP induced nephrotoxicity (Baek et al., 2003). CDDP is known to generate ROS such as hydroxyl radicals, and stimulates renal lipid peroxidation (Sugihara et al., 1987). CDDP also, increased xanthine oxidase (XO) activity in rat kidney tissue, which indicates excessive superoxide radical production and can cause oxidant stress and peroxidation in the cells, causing acute renal failure (Mcmanaman 2002). In the present study, a single dose of CDDP induced nephrotoxicity which was observed by biochemical parameters as a significant increase in serum creatinine. Several investigations have shown that CDDP nephrotoxicity is associated with lipid peroxidation in radical-mediated chain reaction that damages cell membranes, and the inhibition of this process by CUR is mainly attributed to the ability of scavenger free radicals (Sreejayan et al., 1997).

Routine monitoring of serum creatinine and MTX is being done for management of MTX-induced renal dysfunction (Grönroos et al., 2006). It is believed that the nephrotoxicity of MTX is mediated via the precipitation of MTX, renal dysfunction (Izzedine et al., 2005). and its metabolites in the renal tubules (Jacobs et al., 1976). or by a direct toxic effect of MTX on the renal tubules (Messmann et al., 2001). High doses of MTX can cause acute renal failure and elevation of serum urea, creatinine levels, uremia, and hematuria (Kintzel 2001).

The present study focused on oxidative stress in order to understand the mechanism of MTX-induced renal damage. Increase in lipid peroxidation, protein carbonyl content as well as markers of oxidative damage to the lipids and proteins was observed in the kidneys of MTX-treated rats by previous studies, and demonstrated increased oxidative stress in the kidneys of MTX-treated rats (Devrim et al., 2005). In the present investigation, significant reduction in kidney function was observed in animals treated with CURNPs plus CDDP and CURNPs plus MTX when compared with the CDDP and MTX groups, respectively. CURNPs significantly and dose-dependently improved urea and creatinine, and decreasing the elevated levels of serum urea and creatinine provides convincing evidence for participation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in CDDP induced renal dysfunction. It may also be possible that CUR, due to its potential antioxidant properties, improves renal function via attenuating the oxidative stress (Sumanont et al., 2004).

Effect of CURNPs on SOD and CAT

The activities of SOD and CAT in the group treated with CDDP (PC1), MTX (PC2), CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + CDDP/ MTX are given in Table 2. Renal SOD and CAT activities in the PC1 and PC2 were found to be decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) when compared to the NC. Treatments of CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + CDDP/ MTX effectively prevented the CDDP and MTX induced decline of SOD and CAT activities. On the other hand, activity of SOD and CAT in groups administration of CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) significantly ($p < 0.05$) increased compared to the NC. Groups administration of CURNPs (60 mg/kg b.w) gave the best results in SOD and CAT activities compared to the CURNPs (30 mg/kg b.w) and NC.

In the present study, CAT and SOD are found to decrease after CDDP administration. This resulted in the decreased ability of the kidney to scavenge toxic hydrogen peroxide and lipid peroxides. Similar study demonstrated that CDDP administration caused marked deterioration of the endogenous antioxidant profile, as evidenced by decreased SOD and CAT activities (Kuhad et al., 2006). It has been observed that CDDP may initially reduce the levels and availability of endogenous oxygen radical scavengers such as SOD (Davis et al.,

2001). A plausible switch in the case of cisplatin is adenosine-tri-phosphate. The cells in this case lack energy and stop synthesizing significant amount of glutathione. As a result, mitochondrial lipid peroxidation, impairment of adenosine-triphosphatase (ATPase) activity, damage of mitochondrial DNA and disruption of intracellular calcium homeostasis have been reported (Zicca et al., 2002).

Table 2. Effect of CUR (30 ,60mg/kg b.w) and CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) on serum SOD and CAT activities in male rats treated with Cisplatin (6 mg/kg b.w) and Methotrexate (20 mg/kg b.w).

Treatments	SOD	Creatinine(mg/dl)
(U/ml)	CAT	0.01±0.74
(nmol/min/ml)	22.72±0.65	0.71±0.01
Negative control NC	0.39±24.37	0.05±13.22
CURNPs 60mg	65.07±0.04	35.92±0.42
CURNPs 60mg + CDDP	0.21±22.40	0.51±13.88
CURNPs 60mg + MTX	23.55±0.16	12.94±0.04
CURNPs 30mg	0.05±43.08	0.06±24.93

Each value represents mean ±SD of six animals, CURNPs = curcumin nanoparticles, CDDP (PC1) = cisplatin (positive control 1), MTX (PC2) = Methotrexate (positive control 2), statistically significant at P < 0.05 as compared to negative control (NC) (One-way ANOVA followed by Fischer’s LSD test).

In our study, CAT and SOD activities are found to decrease after MTX administration. MTX leads to a reduction in antioxidant enzymatic defense capacity and causes lipid peroxidation in renal tissue. The endogenous antioxidant enzymes are likely to be perturbed because of over-production of oxygen radicals, inactivation of detoxification systems, consumption of antioxidants, and failure to adequately replenish antioxidants in tissue (Öktem et al., 2006). The reduction in GSH levels promoted by methotrexate leads to a reduction in the effectiveness of the antioxidant enzyme defense system, sensitizing the cells to ROS (Lee et al., 2002). Thus, decreased NADPH and GSH levels cause a decrease in antioxidant enzyme defense system activities, which leads to possible oxidative renal stress. It has been proposed that antioxidants maintain the concentration of reduced GSH and may restore the cellular defense mechanisms and block lipid peroxidation, thus protecting against the toxicity of a wide variety of nephrotoxic chemicals (Gurer and Ercal 2000).

In addition, the results of the present study show that CURNPs attenuates the levels of SOD and CAT, thus provide convincing evidence that CURNPs significantly and dose-dependently ameliorated renal oxidative and nitrosative stress via scavenging ROS. This could be attributed to the high solubility of CURNPs increases its bioavailability and clinical efficacy. Engineered NPs possess greater surface to volume ratio and functionalities on their surfaces which could result in greater biological activity if these are taken into the body, making them a potential health concern (Rajendra et al., 2010). Also, significant increase in antioxidant enzymes activities was observed in animals treated with CURNPs + CDDP/ MTX when compared with the CDDP and MTX groups, respectively. We suggest that the ac-

tivities of antioxidant enzymes was modulated or reversed towards normal level by CUR pretreatment. It has been reported CUR-induced inhibition of cellular ROS generation (Balasubramanyam et al., 2003) and inhibited hydrogen peroxide induced cell damage. Also, CUR manganese complex and acetylcurcumin manganese complex showed much greater SOD activity and an inhibitory effect on lipid peroxidation (Davis et al., 2001). It has been shown that the origin of the antioxidant activity of CUR is mainly from the phenolic OH group, although a small fraction may be due to the >CH₂ site (Baek et al., 2003; Kuhad et al., 2006). Our results suggest that the protective effect of CURNPs determined in our study may be mediated by similar mechanisms, thereby ameliorating CDDP and MTX-induced oxidative stress, which in turn results in protection against mitochondrial dysfunction produced by the drug.

Effect of CURNPs on F2-isoprostanes

The activity of F2-IsoPs were given in Table 3. The activity of F2-IsoPs were increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) in PC1 and PC2 compared to NC. Administration of CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + CDDP were decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) compared to PC1. It was observed (0.28 ng/ml, 0.32 ng/ml and 0.45 ng/ml) in groups administration of CURNPs (60 and 30mg/kg b.w) + CDDP and PC1, respectively. Administration of CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) + MTX were decreased significantly ($p < 0.05$) compared to PC2. It was observed (0.27 ng/ml, 0.30 ng/ml and 0.53 ng/ml) in groups administration of CURNPs (60 and 30mg/kg b.w) + MTX and PC2, respectively.

Table 3. Effect of CURNPs (30 ,60mg/kg b.w) on serum F-2 Isoprostanes concentration in male rats treated with Cisplatin (6 mg/kg b.w) and Methotrexate (20 mg/kg b.w).

Treatments	F-2Isoprostanes
(ng/ml)	CAT
Negative control NC	0.27±0.0008
CURNPs 60mg	0.0005±0.27
CURNPs 60mg + CDDP	0.28±0.0000
CURNPs 60mg + MTX	0.00±0.27
CURNPs 30mg	0.27±0.0005
CURNPs 30mg + CDDP	0.0005±0.32
CURNPs 30mg + MTX	0.30±0.00
CDDP PC1	0.0008±0.45
MTX PC2	0.00±0.53

Each value represents mean ±SD of six animals, CURNPs = curcumin nanoparticles, CDDP (PC1) = cisplatin (positive control 1), MTX (PC2) = Methotrexate (positive control 2), statistically significant at $P < 0.05$ as compared to negative control (NC) (One-way ANOVA followed by Fischer's LSD test).

As a marker of oxidative stress, we evaluated F2-IsoPs in serum. It is a biologically active F2-IsoPs known to be a reliable biomarker of lipid peroxidation (Cracowski et al., 2002). In the present study, CDDP and MTX treatment resulted in significant increases in the F2-IsoPs production. Previous study have been reported that depletion of renal GSH, which is one the primary reasons for the resulting lipid peroxidation, may cause increases in F2-IsoPs levels (Roberts et al., 2000). As with the current findings, our data indicates that the generation of free radicals and subsequent lipid peroxidation may play a role in cisplatin and methotrexate nephrotoxicity (Abraham et al., 2010). It is well documented that CDDP causes lipid peroxidation and in the kidneys via ROS generation (Matsushima et al., 1998). Other studies have been reported that oxidative stress and lipid peroxidation play an important role in the methotrexate-induced nephrotoxicity (Öktem et al., 2006; Abraham et al., 2010).

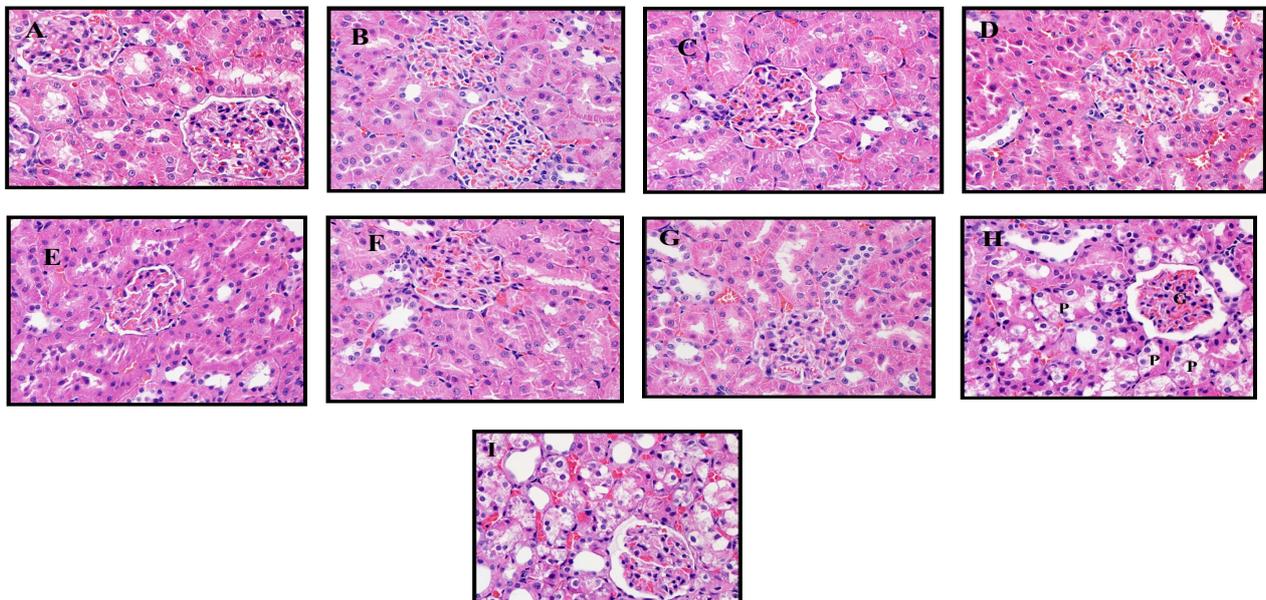
In this study, significant reduction in lipid peroxidation was observed in animals treated with CURNPs + CDDP/MTX when compared to the PC1 and PC2. CURNPs significantly and dose-dependently attenuated lipid peroxidation in CDDP and MTX treated rats, providing convincing evidence for the involvement of ROS in CDDP and MTX-induced lipid peroxidation. It has been reported that a protective effect of CUR on circulating lipids and lipid peroxidation (Rukkumani et al., 2003). CUR attenuates oxidative DNA damage in the mouse epidermis (Shih and Lin 1993), and in cultured mouse fibroblast cells (Davis et al., 2001). These data are in agreement with previous studies done by various antioxidant supplementation (Al-Majed et al., 2003; Shimeda et al., 2005; Atessahin et al., 2005). The results of this study confirm that the consumption of CURNPs improves the

status of oxidative stress agents in the serum and tissue.

Effect of CURNPs on CDDP and MTX-induced changes in renal morphology

Histopathologic changes of the Kidneys are shown in (Fig. 4). In the control group, renal tissue sections had a proximal convoluted tubules lining with cuboidal epithelial cells and distal convoluted tubules. The glomerulus surrounded with renal space and Bowman's capsule. Histologic examination of the kidneys exposed to CDDP (6 mg/kg b.w) showed shrinkage of the glomerulus with widening of the renal space. Degeneration and necrosis of the proximal convoluted tubules containing an excessive amount of cast deposition. Treatment with CURNPs (60, 30 mg/kg b.w) resulted in normal architecture of the distal and proximal convoluted tubules. Experimental evidence has suggested that the renal sections showed severe tubular necrosis, tubular atrophy, interstitial nephritis, and hyaline casts. It has been suggested that ROS may lead to tubular damage in CDDP-treated rats (Baliga et al., 1997; Kuhad et al., 2006). Treatment with CUR resulted in a marked morphological protection (Kuhad et al., 2007). In other study, extensive renal tubular injury was observed in the CDDP group 72 h after CDDP injection, including tubular cell necrosis, loss of brush border membrane and tubular dilatation. In contrast, the mice treated with CUR showed no obvious necrotic changes in the kidney (Ueki et al., 2013).

Figure 4. Effects of CURNPs (30 ,60 mg/kg b.w) administration on renal tissue, photomicrographs of sections from renal cortex of various groups of male rats (A-I). (A) Control: rats received on equivalent volume of saline. (B) CURNPs: rats received CURNPs (60 mg/kg b.w) showing normal appearance and structure of the renal corpuscles. (C) CDDP + CURNPs: rats received CDDP + CURNPs (60 mg/kg b.w) showing a typical control architecture of the renal cortex. (D) MTX + CURNPs: rats received MTX + CURNPs (60 mg/kg b.w) showing congestion of the glomerular blood capillaries and some sites displayed congested and bled blood vessels, also, Well developed renal tubules were clearly noticed. (E) CURNPs: rats received CURNPs (30 mg/kg b.w) showing normal architecture of the distal and proximal convoluted tubules. (F) CDDP + CURNPs: rats received CDDP + CURNPs (30 mg/kg b.w) showing more or less normal renal tubules. (G) MTX + CURNPs: rats received MTX + CURNPs (30 mg/kg b.w) showing distinct improvement in the histological architecture of the renal cortex which revealed slight swollen glomerulus and organized distal and proximal convoluted tubules. (H) CDDP: rats received a single dose of Cisplatin (6 mg/kg b.w) showing slight shrinkage of the glomerulus with widening of the renal space, Degeneration and necrosis of the proximal convoluted tubules containing an excessive amount of cast deposition. (I) MTX: rats received a single dose of Methotrexate (20 mg/kg b.w) showing shrinkage of the renal corpuscle (glomerulus) with condensation of the glomerular capillary tuft and dilation of the capsular space. Also, sever necrosis and degeneration of the proximal convoluted tubules, both proximal and distal tubules contain detached epithelial cells. ($\times=40$ H&E).



As seen in (Fig. 4), histologic examination of the kidneys exposed to MTX (20 mg/kg b.w) showed shrinkage of the renal corpuscle (glomerulus) with condensation of the glomerular capillary tuft and dilation of the capsular space. Also, severe necrosis and degeneration of the proximal convoluted tubules, both proximal and distal tubules contain detached epithelial cells. Treatment with CURNPs (60, 30 mg/kg b.w) resulted in a marked morphological protection. In MTX-induced renal damage, it can be assumed that a direct damage to the glomeruli, tubular obstruction or direct tubular toxicity, are further nephrotoxic mechanisms (Hempel et al., 2003). Our data corroborates with other study which indicates that the generation of free radicals and subsequent lipid peroxidation may play a role in MTX nephrotoxicity (Öktem et al., 2006). It has been reported that the kidneys of MTX-treated rats results in severe glomerular and tubular nephritis. The glomeruli are necrotized and is infiltrated with fibrous tissue (Abraham et al., 2010). In another study we have demonstrated that treatment with MTX shows cell swelling and necrosis in renal tubular cells (Grönroos et al., 2006). In our study, Pretreatment with CURNPs before the administration of MTX reduced MTX induced damage to the kidneys. Besides, CURNPs restored the function of the kidney as shown by near normal serum urea and creatinine values. Similar effects of CUR were also reported in many conditions such as renal ischemia/ reperfusion injury (Bayrak et al., 2008). It may be possible that CUR, due to its potential antioxidant properties, improves renal function via attenuating oxidative stress mediated decline in renal hemodynamics (Sumanont et al., 2004). CURNPs prevented these CDDP and MTX-induced structural changes, suggesting possible involvement of ROS in mediating these histological alterations. We propose that CURNPs acts in the

kidney as a potent scavenger of free radicals to prevent the nephrotoxicity effects of CDDP and MTX.

Conclusions

CDDP and MTX-induced nephrotoxicity were confirmed by our study. CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) had effect on the biochemical factors (urea and creatinine) and antioxidants enzymes (SOD and CAT) and F2-IsoPs. Also, histopathological properties of kidney tissue that were studied, had preventive by CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w). Our result clearly indicated the renoprotective potential of CURNPs (60, 30mg/kg b.w) against CDDP and MTX -induced renal

dysfunction in rats. Therefore, CURNPs has proved to be an effective free radical quencher. In addition, CURNPs formulation approach resulted in improved oral bioavailability, enhanced efficacy. Though further studies on quantitating bioavailability remains to be done CURNPs in oral route might be a promising antioxidant alternative to prevent kidney.

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