

## Effect of Verapamil on Serum Level of Salinomycin in Diabetic Rats

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**Abstract: Problem statement:** The aim of present study was evaluation function of P-glycoprotein with or without verapamil in normal and diabetic rats; which the function of P-glycoprotein was indirectly evaluated by detection of serum salinomycin concentration with HPLC method. **Approach:** This study was carried in 4 groups of rats including normal rats which received salinomycin and verapamil together salinomycin; and diabetic rats which received salinomycin and verapamil together salinomycin. Serum concentration of salinomycin was measured by HPLC after 3 h from its administration. **Results:** Results show the serum concentration of salinomycin significantly elevated in diabetic rats which received verapamil together salinomycin; while this concentration did not significantly change in other groups. **Conclusion:** Since the p-glycoprotein activity decreases in diabetic conditions and verapamil inhibits it; probably transport of salinomycin from blood to tissues or its elimination was decreased that caused its elevated serum concentration.

**Key words:** Salinomycin significantly, verapamil inhibits, diabetes induction, HPLC method, serum concentration, p-glycoprotein, diabetic rats, serum level, tumor cells

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### INTRODUCTION

P-glycoproteins (P-gp) are transmembrane carrier that prevents the cellular accumulation of some xenobiotics and endogenous compounds and is responsible for certain multidrug resistance mechanism in tumor cells (Aller *et al.*, 2009). P-gp is belonged to ATP-binding cassette transport protein superfamily (ABCB1/MDR1) (De Lange, 2004). This pump is mainly expressed in organs that have an excretion (liver, kidney), absorption (intestine) or barrier function, such as the blood-brain barrier (Mercier *et al.*, 2004; Hsiao *et al.*, 2008). For example, P-gp inhibition at the rat BBB has been determined, when the rat is pretreated with cyclosporine A (as p-gp inhibitor) the brain/plasma ratio of verapamil is increased (Hsiao *et al.*, 2006; Hendrikse and Vaalburg, 2002). Based on these data and others, it has been widely postulated that P-gp plays a vital role in limiting drug distribution at blood-brain barrier and drug interactions will result in an important increase in brain concentrations of the affected drugs and, therefore, their CNS efficacy or toxicity (Neuhaus *et al.*, 2010).

Salinomycin is a polyether antibiotic belonging to the group of ionophores. Salinomycin is extensively used as a coccidiostat in poultry and other livestock

(Rajaian *et al.*, 2009). Severe human poisoning with salinomycin has also been reported (Story and Doube, 2004). P-gp activity may affect the toxic exposure to salinomycin. Individuals with reduced or absent P-gp activity could therefore be more susceptible to salinomycin toxicity (Lagas *et al.*, 2008). Verapamil, a calcium channel blocker, is substrate and inhibitor of p-gp (Sulova *et al.*, 2008).

This study was carried to evaluation function of P-glycoprotein with or without verapamil in normal and diabetic rats; which the function of P-gp was indirectly evaluated by detection of serum salinomycin concentration with HPLC method.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried in 4 groups of rats (10 rats in each group). The male Wistar rats were purchased from laboratory animal center Jundishapour of Ahvaz. The age of rats was 12 weeks. The animals access to food and water *ad libitum* under 12h light and 12 dark conditions. Two groups of normal rats received salinomycin (1mg kg<sup>-1</sup> orally) and verapamil (25mg kg<sup>-1</sup> orally) (Bansal *et al.*, 2009) and 1 h later salinomycin (1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> orally).

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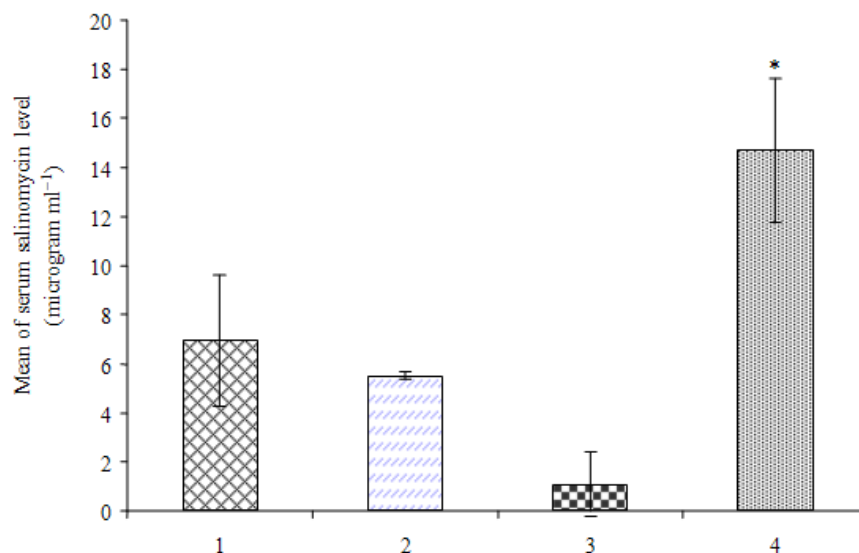


Fig. 1: Mean  $\pm$ S.E. serum concentration of salinomycin: 1: normal rats received salinomycin, 2: normal rats received salinomycin+ verapamil, 3: diabetic rats received salinomycin, 2: diabetic rats received salinomycin+ verapamil. n=8, \* represents significant difference between group4 and other groups ( $p<0.05$ )

Two groups of rats received streptozocin ( $45\text{mg kg}^{-1}$  intravenously) for diabetes induction. One group of diabetic rats (those had blood glucose more than  $600\text{mg dl}^{-1}$ ) received salinomycin ( $1\text{mg kg}^{-1}$  orally) and another group received verapamil ( $25\text{mg kg}^{-1}$  orally) and 1 h later salinomycin ( $1\text{mg kg}^{-1}$  orally). Serum concentration of salinomycin was measured by HPLC after 3 hrs from its administration in all rats.

HPLC system was used from Shimadzu model (Japan) with column C<sub>18</sub>. Column temperature was set at  $40\text{C}^{\circ}$ . HPLC mobile phase A was water/acetonitrile (95:5, v/v), containing 0.1% formic acid; mobile phase B was acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid. The flow rate was  $0.6\text{ ml min}^{-1}$  and the injection volume was 20 ml.

## RESULTS

Results show minimum level of salinomycin was detected in serum of diabetic rats. Although this level did not significantly differ with normal group. The serum concentration of salinomycin significantly was enhanced in diabetic rats which received verapamil together salinomycin; while this concentration did not significantly change in other groups. The mean of serum concentration of salinomycin ( $\pm$  standard error) was illustrated at Fig. 1.

## DISCUSSION

Our study shows the interaction salinomycin and verapamil changes in diabetic condition and increases serum level of salinomycin. It seems the some parts of

this interaction are related to p-gp transporting. P-gp function alters in diabetic status (Wu *et al.*, 2009). Nawa *et al.* (2011) evaluated p-gp expression and function in diabetic rats. They demonstrated the expression and function of p-gp significantly decreased after 9 days induction of diabetes (Nawa *et al.*, 2011). Also Liu *et al.* (2006) and Maeng *et al.* (2007) demonstrated the function of p-gp decreased in the blood-brain barrier of streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats (Liu *et al.*, 2006; Maeng *et al.*, 2007). Insulin therapy restores impaired function and expression of P-gp in blood-brain barrier of experimental diabetes (Liu *et al.*, 2008). But we did not demonstrate significant change at serum concentration of salinomycin in diabetic and normal rats. This may be related diuresis in diabetic rats and more excretion of salinomycin.

Salinomycin is a p-gp inhibitor (Riccioni *et al.*, 2010). This drug inhibited p-gp in leukemic cells and increased cell death (Fuchs *et al.*, 2010). In other hands, Verapamil is P-gp inhibitor (Bansal *et al.*, 2009; De Klerk *et al.*, 2010). Administration of verapamil enhanced uptake of dextromethorphan in the CNS of rats (Marier *et al.*, 2005). We demonstrated co-administration of salinomycin and verapamil significantly increased serum level of salinomycin in diabetic rats. We think this enhancing may be related inhibition of salinomycin transport into kidney and CNS by verapamil and diabetic condition. But exact conclusion needs more detailed studies.

## CONCLUSION

Since the p-glycoprotein activity decreases in diabetic conditions and verapamil inhibits it; probably transport of salinomycin from blood to tissues or its elimination was decreased that caused its elevated serum concentration.

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