Effects of Guru (Cola nitida) on Drug Metabolizing Enzymes in Rats

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Abstract: The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of guru on drug metabolizing enzymes in rats. Guru at a dose of 100mg/kg administered orally to rats caused induction of hepatic microsomal mixed function oxidase, but at the dose of 200 and 400 mg/kg inhibited the drug metabolizing enzymes compared to controls that were given rat diet. It is concluded that guru may produce pharmacological effects at the dose of 100mg/kg and toxicological effects at higher doses.

Keywords: Aminopyrine-N-demethylase, Aniline-4-hydroxylase, UDP-glucuronyltransferase Glutathione-S-transferase, Cytochrome p-450

Introduction

Guru, Cola nut (Cola nitida), a central nervous system stimulant has been shown to mediate some pharmacological effects that are similar to the action of caffeine (Carrillo and Bennitez, 2000). Cola nuts have been used in folk medicine as an aphrodisiac and an appetite suppressant, enabling African soldiers who chew them to travel long distances without food (Trindall, 1997). Other uses include increasing the capacity for physical exertion and for enduring fatigue without food, stimulating a weak heart, despondency, brooding, anxiety and sea sickness (The Psychoactive Encyclopedia. (T.P.E) 2008).

Guru is found everywhere in Sudan. An increasing number of people are now consuming the plant for the variety of reasons. However, no detailed behavioral, toxicological or metabolic studies have been carried out.

The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of guru on drug metabolism in rats.

Materials and Methods

Animals were randomly divided into 4 groups of 10 animals per group. Group 1 animals were fed rat diet and kept as controls. Group 2, 3 and 4 animals were given in addition guru at doses of 100, 200 and 400 mg/kg body weight for 4 weeks.

At the end of the experiment rats were killed and liver were immediately removed, weighed and homogenized in ice-cold isotonic KCl. The crude homogenates were then centrifuged at 10,000g for 15min. A microsomal and cytosolic fractions were prepared as described by Mazel (1976). Protein concentrations in these fractions were determined by the method of Lowry et al (1951). The activities of aminopyrine-N-demethylase and aniline-4-hydroxylase were determined using the method of Mazel (1976) by estimating the concentrations of formaldehyde and p-aminophenol, respectively. The method of Dutton and Storey (1962) was used to determine UDP-glucuronyltransferase activity by estimating o-aminophenyl-glucuronide concentration using o-aminophenol as a substrate. The activity of glutathione-S-transferase was determined in the cytosolic fraction by estimation of 2, 4-dinitrophenylglutathione concentration according to the method described by Habig et al. (1974). The concentration of cytochrome p-450 was determined in the microsomal fraction according to the method of Omura and Sato (1964). The enzyme activities were linear with time, protein and substrate concentration (EL-Sheikh et al 1991, 1992).

2.12 Statistical Analysis:-

Result are expressed as mean ±SD and presence of significant differences among means of groups was determined using one
way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with turkey-kramer post-test for significance. Values were considered significant when P <0.05.

Results

Effects of guru on microsomal protein concentration and on the activity of drug metabolizing enzymes are presented in Table 1. Guru at a dose of 100mg/kg significantly (P<0.05) increased protein concentration in whole homogenate, cytosolic and microsomal fractions in animals of group 2, but significantly P<0.05 decreased protein in animals of group 3 and 4. The activity of cytochrome P-450, aminopyrine-N-demethylase, aniline-4-hydroxylase, were significantly (P<0.05) increased in group 2, but decreased in group 3 and 4. No effect was seen on the activity of UDP-glucuronyl transferase and glutathione-S-transferase.

Table 1: Effect of guru (Mean ± SD) concentration of protein and values of activity of drug metabolizing enzymes in microsomal protein homogenate of liver of rats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group 1 (control)</th>
<th>Group 2 guru treated (100mg/kg)</th>
<th>Group 3 guru treated (200mg/kg)</th>
<th>Group 4 guru treated (400mg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole homogenate</td>
<td>190.31±20.45</td>
<td>215±21.1*</td>
<td>108±2.5*</td>
<td>96±2.46*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytosolic fraction</td>
<td>112.31±10.30</td>
<td>125±9.5*</td>
<td>86±3.0*</td>
<td>80±2.91*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsomal fraction</td>
<td>30.91±2.11</td>
<td>4.01±3.1*</td>
<td>22±1.61*</td>
<td>20±1.31*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enzyme activity of microsomal protein (nmol g⁻¹)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytochrome P-450</td>
<td>0.222±0.002</td>
<td>0.402±0.022*</td>
<td>0.131±0.012*</td>
<td>0.121±0.03*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aminopyrine-N-demethylase</td>
<td>11.70±1.31</td>
<td>16.3±1.6*</td>
<td>8.31±0.061*</td>
<td>7.11±0.063*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aniline-4-hydroxylase</td>
<td>0.281±0.02</td>
<td>0.402±0.03*</td>
<td>0.081±0.011*</td>
<td>0.061±0.012*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDP-glucuronyl transferase</td>
<td>1.103±0.051</td>
<td>1.113±0.050</td>
<td>1.133±0.050</td>
<td>1.061±0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glutathione-S-transferase</td>
<td>172±12</td>
<td>170±13</td>
<td>168±13</td>
<td>173±12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significant (P<0.05) different from control group.

Discussion

Feeding of guru at a dose of 100mg/kg body weight to rats increased protein concentration of liver homogenate and activity of phase-I metabolizing enzymes such as cytochrome p 450, aminopyrine-N-demethylase and aniline-4-hydroxylase. Similar effects have been produced by caffeine in rats (Mitoma et al 1969, Govindwar et al 1988), suggesting that guru at low doses may induce activation of microsomal mixed oxidaze system. However, guru at doses of 200 and 400mg/kg has inhibitory effect on metabolizing enzymes suggesting that guru at these doses may produce toxic effect on the enzymes. Guru failed to produce any effect on phase-2 drug metabolizing enzymes represented by UDP-glucuronyl transferase and glutathione. These enzymes were found to be resistant to hepatotoxin induced liver injury (Gergus et al 1982; El-
Sheikh et al (1991). This is probably due to deep location of these enzymes within endoplasmic reticulum close to inner surface of the membrane (Gergus et al 1982). Consumption of guru which is capable of modulating activity of drug metabolizing enzymes may result in unpredictable pharmcodynamic and toxicologic effects of drugs and xenobiotics co-administered with guru and therefore human and animals should not be allowed to take the plant and drugs concomittantly.

References


Mitoma C., Lombozro., La Valley S.E. and Dehn F. (1969). Nature of the effect of caffeine on the drug-metabolizing enzy-
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تأثير القورو (كولا نبتدا) على نشاط إنزيمات الأيض الدوائية في الجرزان

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المستخلص

لقد أجرى هذا البحث لدراسة تأثير القورو على نشاط إنزيمات أيض الأدوية في الفترة لمدة 28 يوماً. لقد أوضحت النتائج وبدلاً من إحصائية إلى فعالية الجرعة 1 000 ملغرام للكيلو جرام إلى تفعيل نشاط إنزيمات الأكسدة الدوائية بينما تم تنبئ نشاط هذه الالزيمات عند الجرعات 200, 400 ملغرام للكيلو جرام مقارنة بالشاحد تشير هذه النتائج إلى أن القورو في جرعات 100 ملغرام للكيلو جرام ربما كانت جرعات دوائية بينما الجرعات 200, 400 ملغرام للكيلو جرام هي جرعات سمية.