

## Alloxan Dose Optimization to Induce Diabetes in Albino Mice and the Determination of the Induced Diabetes Type

Seham T. M. Oshkondali<sup>1\*</sup>, EL-Mahmoudy<sup>2</sup>, FadiaTaufik Samira<sup>1</sup>, A alacrouk<sup>1</sup>, Khaled Milad Abu<sup>3</sup>, AhlamRashed<sup>2</sup>, Ali Elahrash Zuhur<sup>1</sup>, RajabAlmesai<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Medicine/ Zawia University Zawiya, Libya

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Science/Zawia University Zawiya, Libya

<sup>3</sup>Medical Research Center/Zawia City Zawiya, Libya

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\*Corresponding author: Seham T.M. Oshkondali

### Abstract

Several chemical compounds are used worldwide to induce diabetes in animals. Alloxan monohydrate and streptozotocin are among those are commonly used because of their cheap cost. However, other chemical compounds are less toxic but more expensive. This pilot study was conducted to use alloxan as diabetes inducer, and to determine the suitable dose which can make a diabetic albino mice model. The type of induced diabetes was also differentiated by using glimepiride tablets. Three mice were injected with three doses of alloxan monohydrate intraperitoneally (150mg-100mg-150mg)/kg in two days intervals respectively in order to induce and maintain diabetes. The fasting blood sugar measured before and after each alloxan injection. Results showed an increasing in blood glucose levels from an average of 81 mg/dl to 168.6 mg/dl after the first dose (150 mg /kg) of alloxan, after 2nd dose (100 mg /kg) of alloxan from 117.83 mg/dl to 154.67 mg/dl, and from 154.67 mg/dl to 173 mg/dl after 3rd dose (150 mg/kg). On the other hand the glimepiride which was given to mice orally caused dramatic decrease in blood sugar level from 173 mg/dl to 93.67 mg/dl after 4 hrs of administration. From this study it was conducted that the use of different doses of alloxan can induce and maintain diabetes and the induced diabetes is type II. Further work is in progress to examine the use of plant extracts in order to regulate blood sugar levels in induced diabetic mice.

**Keywords:** Alloxan, diabetes streptozotocin.

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### INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus is a genetic inherited disease with multiple alleles located on different chromosomes. The defect is a decrease in insulin secretion or in insulin action leads to an increase in blood sugar level [1, 2]. Millions of people affected worldwide. The chronic hyperglycemia with this disease causes the occurrence of organ lesions in kidneys, eyes, nerves and blood vessels. Controlling the glycemic state is very important to avoid this complication [3]. Type II diabetes happen due to deficiency of insulin. The body can produce insulin but gradually their cells do not take glucose from blood. This indicates that sort of insulin resistance is developed [4]. Diabetes mellitus type II is more common in the obese at age more than 40 years. State of hyperglycemia leads to much complication such as vascular insult accounts for morbidities and mortalities. Glycemic control is important to avoid these complications [5, 6]. The experimental animal model of a disease is important to understand the disease pathophysiology and also the development of drugs

used for it as treatment [7]. Various diabetic animal models have been established either surgically [8] orchemically [7] using variety of modes, doses and routes of administration [9-11]. Alloxan in its monohydrate form is one of the chemical agents used for the diabetes induction since long [12, 13]. A previous study revealed that by using different doses of alloxan 100mg, 200mg, 300mg and 400 mg in a single dose. Most of the mice became diabetic on first administration. The animals did not sustain the 400 mg/kg dose and showed more than 70% mortality [14].

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

This pilot study was conducted at Zawia Madical Research Center in order to optimize the Alloxan dose that induces diabetes in experimental Albino mice and to determine the type of induced diabetes.

Three male albino mice were used in this study weighed 27.25gm, 23.68gm and 26.85gm .The mice

were held back animal house and kept in stainless steel cages in optimum conditions of temperature, humidity and light and fed overnight. On second day body weight and FBS were measured by ACCUA-check device (Rache Diag. GmbH, Germany, ser.No.4015630059362) recommended by Bromme, 2000. then, the mice injected intraperitoneally by 150mg/kg of alloxan monohydrate solved in a phosphate buffer saline and maintained free access for food and water. After 48 hrs. Both body weight and FBS were measured. In order to ensure occurrence of diabetes, two subsequent individual doses of alloxan were given. The former dose (100mg/kg) was given 2 days after the first dose and the later (150mg/kg) was given 2 days after the

second dose. Both body weight and F.B.S were measured before and after 48 hrs. Of injection. To determine the type of diabetes, 0.5 mg/kg body weight of amaryl was given. Then F.B.S was measured 3 times in 2 hrs intervals between measurements.

## RESULTS

Results in table (I) showed the readings of F.B.S and body weights of mice before and after injection of 1<sup>st</sup> dose (150mg/kg) of alloxan. As can be seen from the table, there was a dramatic increase (168.67mg/dl) after 48hrs. of injection and so the body weight.

**Table-I: the Bwt and FBS of mice before and after injection of 150mg/kg of alloxan**

No of mice	Alloxan dose	Wt before	FBS before	Wt after	FBS after
Mice 1	150mg/kg	27.25 gm	78mg/dl	30.7 gm	190mg/dl
Mice 2	150mg/kg	23.68 gm	73mg/dl	27.61 gm	166mg/dl
Mice 3	150mg/kg	26.85 gm	92mg/dl	29.48 gm	150mg/dl
Average		25.93 gm±1.95	81 mg/dl± 6.84	29.26 gm±1.55	168.67mg/dl± 20.13

Results in table (II & III), also showed an increase in F.B.S after the injection of 2<sup>nd</sup> (100mg/kg) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (150mg/kg) doses of alloxan reaching to an

average of (173mg/dl) after the 3<sup>rd</sup> dose. On the other hand, mice body weights were increased in parallel.

**Table-II: The Bwt and FBS of mice before and after injection of 100 mg/kg of alloxan**

No of mice	Alloxan dose	WT before	FBS before	Wt after	FBS after
Mice 1	100 mg/dl	30.7 gm	111 mg/dl	32 gm	144 mg/dl
Mice 2	100mg/dl	27.6 gm	127.5 mg/dl	29.41 gm	182 mg/dl
Mice 3	100 mg/dl	29.48 gm	115 mg/dl	32.36 gm	138 mg/dl
Average		29.26 gm±1.56	117.83mg/dl± 8.60	31.26 gm±1.60	168.67mg/dl±23.86

**Table-III: The Bwt and FBS of mice before and after injection of 150 mg/kg of alloxan**

No of mice	Alloxan dose	Wt before	FBS before	Wt after	FBS after
Mice 1	150 mg/dl	32 gm	144 mg/dl	31.69 gm	168 mg/dl
Mice 2	150 mg/dl	29.4 gm	182 mg/dl	29.84 gm	200 mg/dl
Mice 3	150 mg/dl	32.36 gm	138 mg/dl	34.22 gm	151 mg/dl
Average		31.25 gm±1.70	154.67mg/dl± 23.86	31.9 gm±2.19	173 mg/dl ± 24.87

When Amaryl was used as hypoglycemic agent, results in table (IV) showed that there was a dramatic decrease in F.B.S. from an average of (173mg/dl) to (82.67mg/dl) after 1 hr. of administration

then started to increase gradually reaching 93.67mg/dl after 4 hrs. This observation indicating that the induced diabetes is of type II since other types do not respond to such drug.

**Table-IV: the FBS before and after amaryl dose.**

No of mice	FBS before	RBS after 1 hr	RBS after 2 hr	RBS after 4 hr
Mice 1	168mg/dl	84mg/dl	90mg/dl	75mg/dl
Mice 2	200mg/dl	81mg/dl	93mg/dl	117mg/dl
Mice 3	151mg/dl	83mg/dl	77mg/dl	89mg/dl
Average	173 mg/dl± 24.88	82.67 mg/dl± 1.53	86.67 mg/dl± 8.50	93.67mg/dl ± 21.38

## DISCUSSION

Alloxan was used in this study to induce diabetes in albino mice as it is one of the most commonly used chemical compound for induction of diabetes mellitus in animals since long [15, 13].

This pilot study conducted mainly to optimize the dose of alloxan needed to induce diabetes and make a diabetic mice model and to determine the type of diabetes. As shown from the results in table (I, II & III) the use of alloxan as a diabetogenic agent managed to induce diabetes in mice from the first dose (150mg/kg)

as indicated by the increase in blood sugar levels in mice from an average of (81mg/dl) to (168mg/dl). Although, the effect of the compound varies considerably amongst species, age and metabolic state of the animal [12, 13], the results were in agreement with many workers who find similar results in which a single dose could lead to make the animal diabetic. Among them, Yanarday and Colak [16] who find that injection of a single dose of (150mg/kg) body weight of alloxan after 18hrs fasting induced hyperglycemia in experimental rats. Gosh and Suryawanshi [9]; Akuodor, *et al.* [11] were also reported that (150mg/kg) of alloxan monohydrate induced diabetes in rats. However, other workers reported different results in which different doses were needed to induce diabetes even though a single dose was still capable of inducing hyperglycemia. Sarasa, *et al.* [10] reported 120mg/kg while Bukhari [14], reported a dose of 200mg/kg to produce experimental diabetes after 7days in albino mice used as animal model.

Although, results from this study revealed that a single dose of alloxan produced hyperglycemia to albino mice but, subsequent doses of 100mg/kg and 150mg/kg were used to inject mice. This step was performed to ensure and maintain the state of hyperglycemia for an extended period of time since the model are going to be used for other experiments where plant extracts known to regulate blood sugar level are going to be tested. As can be seen from table (II & III) results showed extra subsequent doses succeeded to maintain blood sugar levels higher where it reached an average of (173mg/dl) after 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of injection.

One of the aims of this study is to determine the type of diabetes induced by allowance; therefore amaryl was used as a hypoglycemic agent. The dramatic decrease in blood sugar levels as shown in table (IV) was an indication that the induced diabetes was of type (II) since other types do not respond to such drug.

Alloxan is a well-known diabetogenic agent widely used to induce Type II diabetes in animals [15]. But a simplistic argument often made against the use of alloxan to induce type II diabetes mellitus in which, alloxan administration produces beta cells damage and thus leading to type I rather than type II diabetes mellitus. Studies conducted by Etuk and Mohammed [12] showed that, there was no differential response to hypoglycaemic agents by alloxan and glucose loading hyperglycemic rats. Alloxan administration in experimental animals has been reported to produce pancreatic lesion which is proportional to the dose of the drug administered and the size of the lesion also correlates with the pancreatic insulin content [17]. This perhaps explains why the drug at a low or medium dose does not produce absolute but insufficient insulin deficiency in experimental animals. The current study

revealed that by using three doses of alloxan in 48 hrs intervals the model can be conducted and the dose indicated that the insult happened to pancreatic tissue was partial which assured by the hypoglycemic effect of amaryl on the diabetic mice models. From this pilot study it was concluded that the use of alloxan at low to medium doses of (100- 150mg/kg) were successful way to induce type II diabetes in albino mice and the use of subsequent doses of 150mg/kg, 100mg/kg and 150mg/kg in 2 days intervals to insure and maintain diabetic state is recommended.

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