



RESEARCH ARTICLE

PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF CURCUMIN ON LINDANE-INDUCED NEPHROTOXICITY IN MALE WISTAR RATS

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ABSTRACT

Lindane; an organochlorine pesticide has been used in agriculture and domestic purposes for several years. The aim of present study was to analyze the oxidative effect of lindane which caused biochemical and ultrastructural changes in adult male wistar rats and to evaluate the possible protective effect of curcumin. Tissues damage was assessed by histopathological observation. Curcumin plays an important role as an antioxidant and is consequently expected to protect tissues from damage caused by reactive oxygen metabolites. Rats were divided into seven groups. Group-A, was given normal diet and water ad libitum. Lindane (30 mg/kg body weight) was administered orally for 14 and 28 days in group- B and group-C respectively. Curcumin (100 mg/kg body wt) was given to Group-D and Group-E. Lindane (30 mg/kg body wt) along with curcumin (100 mg/kg body wt) was administered orally for 28 days in group-F. Group-G, was allowed to metabolized after 14 days of exposure to lindane. Lindane administration lead to a significantly ($p < 0.001$) increase in renal lipid peroxidation associated with reduction in levels of GSH, activity of SOD, CAT and GST. Pre-feeding and post-feeding of curcumin resulted in decreased renal levels of lipid peroxides and increased GSH, SOD, CAT and GST activities. Results revealed that curcumin in combination with lindane partially or totally alleviated its toxic effects on the studied parameters. In conclusion, Curcumin have beneficial effects and could be able to antagonize lindane toxicity.

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INTRODUCTION

Lindane is a γ -isomer of hexachlorocyclohexane, has widely used as an organochlorine pesticide and spread in the environment due to its long life time (Wauchope *et al.*, 1992). Pesticide extensively employed for public health as well as agricultural purposes in developing countries. Due to its widespread use, lindane widely distributed in ecosystem and become in the form of global pollutant. Several studies have revealed the presence of lindane above permissible limit in body fat, blood, milk and food commodities both in India and abroad (Banerjee *et al.*, 1997; Samanta *et al.*, 1999). It's widely used therapeutic as scabicide, pediculicide and ectoparasiticide (Fidan *et al.*, 2008). Presently lindane also used in lotions, creams and shampoos for the control of lice and mites in humans (Safe, 1993; Budavari *et al.*, 1989). Compounds of this chemical class have very low water

solubility but are highly soluble in lipids and bio-accumulate (Murphy, 1986). Toxic effects of lindane in mammals include convulsions, ataxia, prostration, damage to fatty tissues and inhibition of sperm motility in sea urchins (Nelson, 1990; Murphy, 1986). It has been reported to induce oxidative stress by interacting with the cell membrane, triggering the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and altering the level of antioxidant molecules which in turn cause severe physiological dysfunction in various organ systems (Barros *et al.*, 1991; Bano and Bhatt, 2007). Recent studies indicate that pesticide intoxication produce oxidative stress by the generation of free radicals (Banerjee *et al.*, 1999) and induce tissue lipid peroxidation (Yavuz, *et al.*, 2005). ROS arise as by-products of normal cellular metabolism or may be the consequence of exposure to certain chemicals (Kerr *et al.*, 1996; Moslen, 1994) and responsible for structural and functional alterations in cells (Fernandez *et al.*, 2003; Comporti, 1989; Kappus, 1987). Normal cellular functions depend on a balance between ROS produced and antioxidant defense mechanisms present in the cell. In search for these new

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chemical entities as modulators of xenobiotic metabolism, we searched literature on Ayurvedic medicinal plants. Several medicinal plants or their active principles have been used as antioxidants and in reducing the toxicity of xenobiotics. However, it based on the experience of traditional system of medicine from different ethnic societies. The medicinal plant *Curcuma longa* (Turmeric) has attracted the interest of research community due to its number of pharmacological activities (Ammon and Whal, 1991; Srimal, 1997). Curcumin, an active component of turmeric (*Curcuma longa* linn) exhibits an antioxidant property. It is a yellow colored phenolic pigment yielded from the rhizome of turmeric (family Zingiberaceae). Earlier studies have shown that it is an effective antioxidant against oxidative tissue damage and inhibits ROS production (Quiles *et al.*, 2002) both, in vitro and in vivo (Joe and Lokesh, 1994), also acts as a scavenger of free radicals (Khanna, 1999). Therefore, the present study has been undertaken to evaluate the ameliorating effect of curcumin on lindane induced biochemical and histopathological alterations in renal tissues of rat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Laboratory Animals

Forty-two male wistar rats (weighing 130–150 g) were obtained from the animal house of the IITR (Industrial Institute of Toxicology Research). Animals were caged in seven groups (each group having six rats) and given food & water ad libitum. The animal room was maintained at 21–24 °C and 40–60% relative humidity with 12-h light–dark cycles, the light cycle coinciding with the day light hours. After 2 weeks of acclimation, the groups were assigned at random to one of the following treatments: group A served as control, while groups B and C were treated with 30 mg lindane/kg body weight, up to 14 and 28 days respectively. Group D received curcumin 100 mg/kg body wt up to 14 days than received lindane 30 mg/kg body wt up to next 14 days. Group E was given lindane 30 mg/kg body wt up to 14 days than received curcumin 100 mg/kg b.wt up to next 14 days. While group F was given lindane (30 mg/kg body wt) plus curcumin (100 mg/kg body wt). The animal G received lindane 30 mg/kg body wt up to 14 days and then were kept for metabolism up to next 14 days. The dose of LD50 (lindane), when administered orally to rats has been reported to be given at the rate of 88 mg/kg body wt (Thomas B. Gaines., 1959). Animals were treated orally with the tested compounds every other day for 28 days. The doses of lindane and curcumin were calculated according to the animal's body weight before treatment.

Chemicals

Pure lindane 99.6% & curcumin were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (st. Louis, Mo. USA). All other chemicals were of AR grade and purchased locally.

Sample collection

Wister Rats of each group were killed by decapitation at the end of the treatment period. Samples (kidney) were collected from the sacrificed animals and placed immediately on -20 °C temperature. Frozen kidney samples were thawed and 200mg of samples was weighed and taken in 2ml of ice –cold saline for enzyme estimation. An amount of 200 mg of sample was weighed separately and taken in 2 ml of 0.02 M EDTA for

GSH estimation. Tissue sections were taken from kidneys for histopathological examination, which were fixed in 10% formalin. Organ homogenates were prepared using tissue homogenizer (IKA, Germany) under ice-cold condition. The homogenate was centrifuged for 10 min at 3000 rpm. The supernatant was used for following biochemical estimation.

Measurement of malondialdehyde

Malondialdehyde occurs in lipid peroxidation, measured in kidney tissues after incubation at 95 °C with thiobarbituric acid in aerobic conditions (pH 3.4). The pink colour produced by these reactions was measured spectrophotometrically at 532 nm to measure MDA levels (Shafiq-u-Rehman., 1984). Specific activity was defined as nanomole per milligram protein.

Measurement of Superoxide dismutase (SOD)

SOD was estimated as per the method described by Madesh and Balsubramaniam (1989). It involved generation of superoxide by pyrogallol auto oxidation and inhibition of superoxide- dependent reduction of the tetrazolium dye MTT [3-(4-5dimethyl thiazole 2-xl) 2, 5 dipyrenyl tetrazolium bromide] to its formazan, measured at 570nm. The reaction was terminated by the addition of dimethyle sulfoxide (DMSO), which helps to solublize the formazan formed. The colour evolved to stable for many hours and is expressed as SOD units (have been expressed as U/g of protein) [one unit SOD is amount (µg) of protein required to inhibit the MTT reduction by 50%].

Measurement of Catalase (CAT)

Activities of catalase in kidney homogenate were estimated by the method of Begrmeyer (1983), Diluted (1:10) of homogenate was used for estimation of catalase. The optical density was recorded at every 10 sec for 1 min at 240 nm against water blank.

Measurement of Glutathione-s-transferase (GST)

GST activity was measured by the method of Habig *et al.*, 1974. Assay for the activity of GST is based on the spectrophotometric determination of a CDNB (1-Chloro2, 4-Dinitrobenzene) conjugate formed with glutathione in a GST coupled. The conjugate formation is GST catalyzed and therefore is a measure of GST activity. The changes in absorbance were recorded at 340 nm and the enzyme activity was calculated as nmol CDNB conjugate formed /min/mg/protein using a molar extinction coefficient of $9.6 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$.

Measurement of Reduced glutathione (GSH)

Reduced glutathione was determined by the method of Jollow *et al.*, (1974). The method described is based on the development of a yellow color when 5, 5'-dithiobis-(2-nitro benzoic acid) Ellan's reagent (DTNB) is added to sulphohydril compounds. The color develops is fairly stable for 10 minutes. The reaction is read at 412 nm.

Histopathological examination

Small representative pieces (5 mm thickness) of respective organs viz., kidneys were collected in 10% neutral buffered

formalin solution. After 3-4 days fixation, the tissues were trimmed to 2 mm thickness by sharp blade. Further processing was done by dehydrating the tissue in ascending grades of ethyl alcohol, clearing in xylene then tissue is embedded into melted paraffin wax (melting point 58 °C), after hardening of wax, tissue blocks were prepared & sections were cut with microtome to obtain 4-5 μ thick sections. These sections were hydrated by treating them with descending grades of alcohol and water. These tissues were double stained with hematoxyline and eosin stain. Sections were treated with xylene to remove water & mounted with cover slip using DPX as mounting media. Sections were examined with a NIKON (eclipse 8i) DXM 1200X light microscope (Japan).

Statistical analysis

All data were analyzed via ANOVA using Graph Pad in Stat Software Inc., v. 3.06, San Diego, USA followed by Tukey tests and the statistical significance was considered at $P < 0.05$.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Oxidative damage primarily occurs through the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) including hydroxyl radicals and hydrogen peroxide that subsequently react with biological molecules, causing damage to membranes and other tissues (Banerjee *et al.*, 1999). The present study reports that curcumin ameliorates the lindane induced toxicity. In agreement with previous studies we have shown that lindane induced renal damage in exposed to male rats (Videla, *et al.*, 1990) and that this may be due to depletion in cellular thiol (SH) levels (Muller, 1986). Increased generation of superoxide radicals leads to oxidation and depletion of GSH with a lipid peroxidative response. Glutathione, an endogenous antioxidant plays a critical role in detoxification of reactive oxygen species and free radicals. Several studies using animal model have shown that the use of phytochemicals from plant extracts were protective against the oxidative stress induced by many toxic agents mostly by modulating the GSH and GST levels (Shanmugarajan *et al.*, 2008; Nandave *et al.*, 2007; Amin' 2008; Sarhan *et al.*, 2007). GST catalyses the reaction between the thiol (SH) group of GSH and potential alkylating agents, such as lindane, thereby neutralizing the electrophilic sites and rendering them more water soluble. This enzyme is therefore a major component of the GSH redox cycle. The activity of this enzyme is a crucial factor in determining the sensitivity of cells to broaden the range of toxic chemicals. The present study was in agreement with these previous studies as the presence of curcumin elevates GSH and GST levels in the presence or absence of lindane and this may be responsible for the protective effect of the curcumin against lindane toxicity.

Several enzymes in renal tissues have long been considered as effective biochemical markers to understand the early injury. Table-1 depicts the enzymatic antioxidants activities in the renal tissues of control and experimental rats. The present study revealed that the administration of lindane resulted in significant ($P < 0.001$) rise in renal lipid peroxidation. Lipid peroxidation is a free radical mediated chain reaction which can be initiated by hydroxyl radicals and attack polyunsaturated fatty acids in membranes resulting in oxidative damage (Hfaiedh *et al.*, 2012). Which are agreement with previous observation that lindane exposed rat have shown marked increase lipid peroxidation in kidney (Anilakumar *et al.*: 2006). It has been shown that lindane interacts with cell

membranes resulting in lipid peroxidation (Fong, *et al.*, 1973). Padma *et al.* (2011) also show that lindane elevates lipid peroxidation in rat's renal tissue exposed to lindane toxicity and this was attributed to decrease antioxidant activities. The rise in lipid LPO level may be due to the increase in generation of the free radicals. These free radicals attack cell structure with the body causing damage to cell membrane and enzyme system (Fong, *et al.*, 1973). In this regard, Vijayaval *et al.*, (2006) documented that free radical play a prominent role in elevating LPO and potentially leading to cellular damage. This result is in accordance with previous studies using lindane and other pesticides (Koner *et al.*, 1998 and Banerjee *et al.*, 2001). Induction of cytochrome P450 and other microsomal enzyme by various pesticides, e.g. carbamate, has been reported and it is possible that lindane mediated free radical generation could be through induction of these enzyme (Hayes, 1982, Puatanochockchai *et al.*, 2006 and Padma *et al.*, 2012).

Previous studies have shown increase malondialdehyde level in tissues of animals exposed to toxic agents and this effect was attenuated by the use of various plant extracts (Guldur *et al.*, 2010; Al Rejaie, 2009; Nur Azlina *et al.*, 2009; Mtgapor and Fazlina, 2006; Iyawe *et al.*, 2006). The dietary intake of these extracts is considered to be relatively safe and without undesirable side effects (Xavier *et al.*, 2004). The increase in renal LPO content produced by lindane was significantly ($P < 0.001$) lowered by Pre and post feeding of curcumin. The result obtained from this present study correlates with the previous findings. The study showed that the pre and post – treatment of curcumin attenuates MDA level in the presence of lindane. This reduction in MDA level may be as a result of increase GSH and GST activities in the presence of curcumin. These results are similar to the observation of another study where gallic acid was shown to decrease LPO level in carbon tetrachloride induced damage in albino rats (Jadon *et al.*, 2007). Similarly, El-Demerdash *et al.*, (2009); Bishnoi *et al.*, (2008) have been reported that treatment with curcumin reduced the level of LPO and induced the activities of the antioxidant enzymes, and the levels of SH-groups in sodium arsenite and haloperidol respectively. Renal GSH level was significantly ($P < 0.001$) reduced on lindane administration compared to control. The observed decreased GSH level in both renal tissue may be due to utilization of non-protein thiols by increase ROS under lindane induced oxidative stress (Bano and Bhatt, 2007; Pompella *et al.*, 2003; Ahmad *et al.*, 2008). SOD and CAT activities in renal tissues were decreased significantly ($P < 0.001$) in lindane exposed groups compared to control (Table-1). Superoxide dismutase (SOD) and Catalase (CAT) are two important enzymatic antioxidants that act against toxic oxygen free radicals such as superoxide (O_2^-) and hydroxyl ions (OH^-) in biological systems (Burton *et al.*, 1983; Zlko *et al.*, 2002; Weydert *et al.*, 2006). CAT prevents oxidative hazards by catalyzing the formation of H_2O and O_2 from H_2O_2 (Kumar and Kuttan, 2003). In this regard, Padma *et al.*, (2011) have documented that lindane cause depletion in activity of CAT in kidney of female Wistar rats. A previous study by Anila Kumar *et al.* (2009) has shown that lindane exposure usually decreases the activities of SOD and CAT. This implies that lindane causes an increased intracellular accumulation of H_2O_2 and superoxide radicals. The accumulation will further contribute to the membrane damage via lipid peroxidation. In our present study, we observed a decrease in the SOD and CAT activities of the kidney tissues on lindane administration.

Table 1. Kidney

Parameters	Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D	Group E	Group F	Group G
LPO	37.27 ± 0.099	48.20±0.274***	53.30±0.237***	39.10 ± 0.392*	41.75 ± 0.152**	46.93±0.286***	47.82 ±0.071***
GST	1.70 ±0.003	0.51 ±0.001***	0.40 ± .001***	1.11±0.003●	1.01 ±0.002●	0.89±0.006 **	0.53 ± 0.00***
GSH	32.11±0.000	24.86±.000***	18.98±0.000***	30.99 ± 0.000*	28.10 ± 0.001**	27.14 ± 0.000**	24.92±0.000 ***
CAT	66.78±0.505	55.93±0.248***	42.98±0.301***	64.95±0.131*	60.97 ±0.221**	58.99±0.331 **	56.76 ±0.263***
SOD	8.16 ±0.099	5.98±0.075***	3.16±0.262***	8.10±0.136●	7.01±0.175*	7.96 ±0.235**	6.06 ± 0.015***

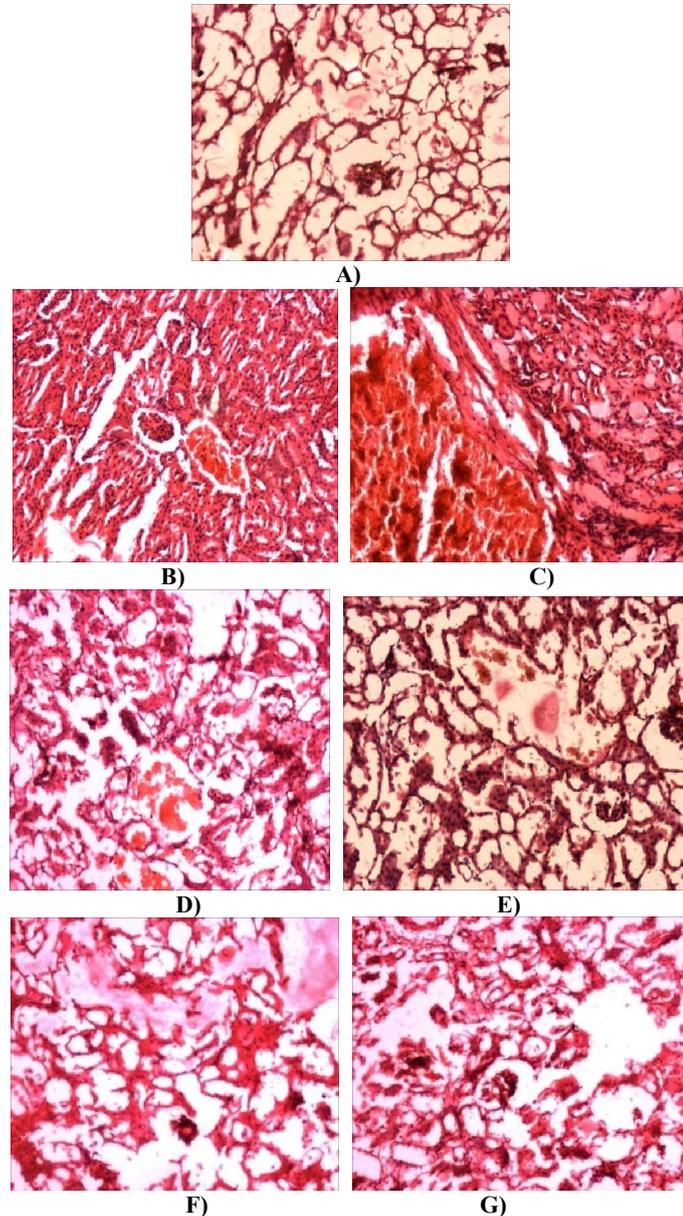


Fig.1. Histopathological examination of haematoxylin-eosin stained kidney section of normal and experimental rats with magnification $\times 100$. (a) Kidney section of control rat demonstrated the normal cellular structure. (b) Section of the kidney of lindane (for 14 days) alone treated rat showed degenerative and necrotic changes in proximal convoluted tubules. Note the detachment of necrotic lining cells. (c) Section of the kidney of lindane (for 28 days) alone treated rat showed marked vascular congestion and tubular dilation. (d) Kidney section of pre-treated rat depicted mild vascular congestion in cortex and medulla with normal structure of glomeruli and medulla. (e) Kidney section of post-treated rat depicted widening of Bowman's space with deposition of proteinaceous mass. (f) Section of the kidney of lindane metabolized rat showed necrotic changes in the proximal convoluted tubules. necrotic lining cells detached in to the lumen. (g) Kidney section of lindane+curcumin treated rat improved to near normal renal cellular architecture

Pre and post treatment with curcumin caused a significant increase in renal ($P < 0.05$) in SOD and CAT activities suggesting an active protective role by the components present in curcumin in ameliorating free radical-induced damage (Unnikrishnan and Rao 1995). In agreement with our observation Quiles *et al.*, (2002); Ramirez-Tortosa, (2002) reported that curcumin inhibits ROS production which cause oxidative stress. GST plays an important role in the detoxification of toxic electrophiles by conjugating them with glutathione. GST is a potent antioxidant that provides cells with a substantial degree of protection against oxidative stress. In the present study, lindane significantly ($P < 0.001$) decreased GST activity in renal tissues (Table-1). The decrease in GST activity might be responsible for lindane accumulation in the renal tissues of rat. In support of our findings Padma *et al.*, (2011) has been reported that lindane intoxication decreases the GST level in rat kidney. Spychala (2000) showed a significant decrease in GST in male mice when treated with lindane. In our study, Pre and post treatment with curcumin caused a significant increase in renal ($P < 0.05$) GST level in compared to lindane treated rats. This may be due to the Curcumin has been reported as potent scavenger of variety of ROS (Reddy *et al.*; 1994), exhibiting anti-inflammatory activity as well as antioxidant properties (Patumraj, *et al.*; 2006, Halim, *et al.*; 2002, Sharma, *et al.*; 2006 and Unnikrishnan and Rao 1995). The phenolic and the methoxy group on the phenyl ring and the 1, 3-diketone systems seems to be important structural features that can be potent in scavenging free radicals and the phenolic group with a methoxy at the ortho position is especially effectual for the antioxidant activity (Rao 1994; Priyadarisni *et al.*, 2003).

Fig. 1 demonstrated that the rats treated with lindane alone for 14 and 28 days showed degeneration and shrinkage of glomerulus and degeneration of proximal and distal tubules. These alterations in kidney architecture might be due to generation of reactive oxygen species by lindane metabolism which play a deleterious role in causing nephrotoxicity. These findings are similar to previous observations in the same model by Padma *et al.*, (2011) who observed tubular distension and basophilic tubules in kidney. Similarly, exposure of CD and EtOH cause disturbances in histology of rats (Brzóska *et al.*, 2003, 2002). While the Treatment with curcumin to lindane exposed rats reduced the pathomorphological alterations and ameliorated the histomorphology of the hepatic tissue of rats. Renal tissue of rats exposed to lindane showed glomerular mesangial proliferation, proximal tubular cell swelling, glomerular sclerosis, interstitial edema (mild), eosinophilic cytoplasm and hydropic degeneration with satellite lumen. Earlier study reported kidney is a target organ for free radicals which produced by heavy metals and pesticides (Markovich *et al.*, 1999). Suter (1983) observed liver and kidney effects in rats fed with lindane showed centrilobular hypertrophy and necrosis, tubular distension and basophilic tubules, respectively. Curcumin administration restored the renal architecture in lindane-exposed rats. In curcumin and lindane co-treated animals only slight degeneration of cells was found.

The result of the present study demonstrate that the lindane induced oxidative damage on the kidneys by enhancing lipid peroxidation and diminishing enzymatic (CAT, GST and SOD) and non-enzymatic (GSH) antioxidant status. Curcumin diminished lindane induced oxidative stress probably through its free radical scavenging, anti-lipid peroxidative and antioxidant activities in the kidneys. Thus, the results of our investigations suggest that curcumin has protective effects on oxidative stress induced by lindane. Curcumin can be a potent antioxidant in the kidneys. These organs are highly prone to oxidative stress against lindane induced toxicity and hence may have useful properties as a natural antioxidant supplement, capable of preventing renal damage caused by oxidative stress and helps in normal functioning of these vital organs.

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