



# Estimation of devastating effect of Warfarin on liver, kidney and immune system in male and female wild rats

## **A THESIS**

Submitted to Zoology Department, Faculty of Science, New Valley University.

#### For

Partial fulfillment the degree of Master of Science (M.SC.) in Zoology (Animal Physiology)

## By

## Heba Allah Ahmed Mahmoud Ahmed

B.SC of Science (2008), Zoology Department, Faculty of Science, Assiut University.

# Supervised by

# Prof. Dr. / Magdy Wilson Boules

Prof. of Animal pests
Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI)
Agriculture Research Centre

## Dr. /Mona Mohmmed Atia

Assistant Prof. of Cell Biology Zoology Department Faculty of Science Assuit University

## Dr. / Elham Abd El Sabour Abd Allah

Assistant Prof. of Physiology Zoology Department Faculty of Science New Valley University

> Zoology Department Faculty of Science New Valley University (2021-1443)

# Contents

1. Introduction	1
Aim of the work	xiv
2. Materials and Methods	
2.1. Chemicals	35
2. 2. Determination of LD <sub>50</sub> & LT <sub>50</sub>	35
2.3. Animals and experimental design	36
2.4.Sample collection	38
2.5. Hematological examinations	38
2.6. Western blot analysis and Immunohistochemistry	42
2.7.Biochemical measurements	48
2.7.1. Preparation of tissue homogenate	48
2.7.2. Liver functions tests	48
2.7.3. Kidney functions tests	49
2.7.4. Metabolic effects	49
2.7.5. Antioxidant biomarkers	51
2.7.6. Oxidative stress assay parameters	53
2.8.Histological examination	55
2.9.Histopathology score and fibrosis percentage for liver and	
kidney	55
2.10. Statistical analysis	56
Certificate of approval	57

## 3. Results

# Part (I)

	3.1. $LD_{50}$ , $LT_{50}$ , body weight and pathomorphological studies	
	Determination of LD <sub>50</sub> < <sub>50</sub> of Warfarin for male and female ats	58
3.1.2.	Body Weight & Patho-morphological Studies of wild rat	63
	Part (II)	
	3.2. Western blot and Immunohistochemical detections	
	Immunoblotting analysis for Cytochrome P450 in the liver of male male wild rat	67
	Immunohistochemical detection of cleaved caspase 3 in the liver of and female wild rat	75
	Part (III)	
	3.3. Blood serum protein fractions and CBC	
3.3.1.	The blood serum protein fractions of male and female wild rats	79
3.3.2.	Total white blood cells, Changes in the differential white blood cells and Red Blood Cell counts	85
	Part (IV)	
	Biochemistry parameters (Liver & kidney)	
3.4.1.	Liver functions tests	93
3.4.2.	Kidney Function tests	99
3.4.3.	Metabolic effects of Warfarin	103
3.4.4.	Total protein	100

## **Contents**

	103
3.4.5. Antioxidant Parameters	109
3.4.6. Oxidative stress Parameters	115
Part (V)	
3.5. Histological and histochemical studies (Liver & kidney)	
3.5.1. Liver	120
3.5.2. Kidney	148
4. Discussion	184
Graphical abstract	212
5. Summary	213
6. References	218
7. Arabic summary	270

# List of abbreviations

IPM	Integrated pest management.
ARs	Anticoagulant Rodenticides.
FGARs	First generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
SGARs	Second generation anticoagulant rodenticides.
EU	European Union.
INR	International normalized ratio.
CYP2C9	Cytochrome P450 family 2 subfamily C member 9.
CYP1A1	Cytochrome P450 family 1 subfamily A member 1.
CYP1A2	Cytochrome P450 family 1 subfamily A member 2.
CYP3A4	Cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4.
CYP2C9	Cytochrome P450 family 2 subfamily C member 9.
DOACs	Direct- acting oral anticoagulants.
PCC	Prothrombin complex concentrate.
WRN	Warfarin Related nephron-pathy.
AKI	Acute Kidney Injury.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency's.
RBCs	Red blood cells
PLT	Platelets
WBCs	White blood cells
НВ	Hemoglobin
НСТ	Hematocrit
PBMC	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells.
BBB	Blood brain barrier.
MMPS	Matrix metalloproteinases.
НТ	Hemorrhagic transformation.

IRI	Ischemic reperfusion injury.
ROS	Reactive oxygen species.
Gpx	Glutathione peroxidase.
GSH	Glutathione.
Nrf2	Nuclear factor erythroid-related factor 2.
VKOR	Vitamin K epoxide reductase.
AIB	Serum albumin level.
PT-INR	Prothrombin time.
AF	Arterial Fibrillation.
	Arterial fibrosis.
MB	Major bleeding events.
BSA	Bovine serum albumin.
NAR	Nagase an albuminemic rats.
TIBC	Total iron binding capacity.
IDA	Iron deficiency anemia.
IgM	Immunoglobulin M.
IgG	Immunoglobulin G.
IgA	Immunoglobulin A.
IL	Interleukins.
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase activity.
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase activity.
ALP	Alkaline phosphatase.
CKD	Chronic kidney disease.
SOD	Superoxide dismutase.
CAT	Catalase.
GST	Glutathione s-transferase.
NO	Nitric oxide.
iNOS	Inducible nitric oxide stimulator.

LPS	Lipopolysaccharide.
NOACs	Non –vitamin k oral anticoagulants.
CDC DACE	Sodium dodecyl sulphate–polyacrylamide gel
SDS-PAGE	electrophoresis.
RIPA Lysis buffer	Radio-immunoprecipitation assay buffer.
APS	Amonium persulfate.
ECL	Enhanced Chemiluminescence Luminal.
DAB	3, 3'-diaminobenzidine.
PBS	Phosphate- buffered saline solution.
POD	Peroxidase.
LPO	Lipid peroxidation.
GOD/PAP	Colorimetric method with glucose oxidase, and 4-
	aminoantipyrine.
TBA	Thiobarbituric acid.
VKD	Vitamin K-dependent.
CYP2	Cytochrome P450 Family 2 (hemoprotein)
PRE	Particular responsive element in nuclear DNA.
HSC	Hepatic sinusoidal endothelial cells.
SMC	Smooth muscle cells.
GSK	Glycogen synthase kinase

#### List of tables

- **Table 1 (a, b):** Showing acute orally doses toxicity of Warfarin against male and female wild rats of *Rattus rattus*.
- **Table (2):** Effect of ¼ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of liver functions, AST, ALT, Total Bilirubin, Direct Bilirubin and ALP in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Table (3):** Effect of ¼ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of kidney functions, Urea, Creatinine and Uric acid in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Table (4):** Effect of ¼ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of Plasma glucose, Plasma Albumin, (plasma, hepatic and renal) total Protein, in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Table (5):** Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on (hepatic and renal) activities of GSH, SOD and CAT of liver and kidney tissues in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Table (6):** Effect of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> LD <sub>50</sub> of Warfarin on some plasma activities of LPO and NO of liver and kidney tissues in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).

## List of figures

- **Fig.1.** (a–c) the acute oral toxicity  $LD_{50}$  & the median Lethal Time (time until death)  $LT_{50}$  of different dose of Warfarin against male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 2.** Effect of different oral doses on body weight in female and male wild rats.
- **Fig. 3.** Pathomorphological symptoms in male and female wild rats after oral doses of warfarin.
- **Fig. 4 (a, b & c)** western blot analysis, Immunoblots were quantified denistometrically for the effect of exposure to warfarin with different doses on endogenous CYP2C9, COL1A1 and NRF2 protein levels in the liver sections of male and female wild (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 5.** Immunohistochemical detection of C. caspase 3 of liver in female and male wild rats given different doses of warfarin.
- **Figs. 6.** (a, b, c) page sodium doudesile sulphate (SDS), poly Achrylamide gell electrophoresise of serum protein fractions of control and warfarin treatments.
- **Figs. 7.** (**a**, **b**, **c**) )The mean values of total white blood cells, Changes in the differential white blood cells and Red Blood Cell counts
- **Fig. 8 (a& b):** Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of liver functions, **Fig. (a)** AST and fig. (b) ALT in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 9 (a& b):** Effect of ¼ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on plasma activities of liver functions Fig. (a) Total Bilirubin & fig. (b) Direct Bilirubin in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).

- **Fig. (10):** Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on plasma activities of liver functions ALP in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 11** (a-c): Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of kidney functions, Fig. (a) Urea, Fig. (b) Creatinine and fig. (c) Uric acid in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 12 (a & b ):** Effect of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> LD <sub>50</sub> of Warfarin on some activities of Plasma glucose and Plasma Albumin in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 13(a-c):** Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on (plasma, hepatic and renal) total Protein, in male and female of wild rats (Rattus rattus).
- **Fig.14 (a-c):** Effect of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> LD <sub>50</sub> of Warfarin on fig. (a) Hepatic GSH, fig. (b) SOD and fig. (c) CAT in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig. 15** (**a-c**): Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on fig. (a) Renal GSH, fig. (b) SOD and fig. (c) CAT in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig.16** (a & b): Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of fig.(a) LPO and fig.(b) NO of liver tissues in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- **Fig.17** (a & b): Effect of ½ and ½ LD 50 of Warfarin on some plasma activities of **fig.(a)** LPO and **fig.(b)** NO of **kidney** tissues in male and female of wild rats (*Rattus rattus*).
- Figs. 18 (a-d) & Figs. 19 (a&b): Sections of Control male and female liver in wild rat (Rattus rattus).
- **Figs. 20 (a-d) & Figs. 21 (a&b):** Sections of liver of female wild rat (*Rattus rattus*) treated with 1/4 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (9mg/kg.b.w).
- **Figs. 22 (a-d), & Figs. 23 (a & b):** Sections of liver of female wild rat (*Rattus rattus*) treated with 1/2 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (18 mg/kg.b.w).

- **Figs. 24 (a-c), & Figs. 25 (a & b):** Sections of liver of male wild rat (*Rattus rattus*) treated with 1/4 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (27.5 mg/kg.b.w).
- **Figs. 26 (a-d), & Figs. 27 (a & b):** Sections of liver of male wild rat (*Rattus rattus*) treated with 1/2 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (55 mg/kg.b.w).
- **Fig. 28:** (a) Liver histopathology score, and (b) the percentage liver fibrosis score was assessed in female and male wild rats for controls & Warfarin doses.
- Figs. 29 (a-d) & Figs. 30 (a&b): Sections of Control female and male kidney in wild rat.
- **Figs. 31 (a-c), Figs. 22 (a -c) & Figs. 33 (a & b):** Sections of kidney of female wild rat treated with 1/4 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (9mg/kg.b.w).
- **Figs. 34 (a -c), Figs. 35 (a -c) & Figs. 36 (a &b):** Sections of kidney of female wild rat treated with 1/5 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (18 mg/kg.b.w).
- **Figs. 37 (a -c), Figs. 38 (a &b) & Figs. 39(a &b):** Sections of kidney of male wild rat (Rattus rattus) treated with 1/4 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (27.5 mg/kg b.w).
- **Figs. 40 (a -d) & Figs. 41 (a &b):** Sections of kidney of male wild rat (Rattus rattus) treated with 1/2 LD<sub>50</sub> of Warfarin (55 mg/kgb. w).
- **Fig. 42:** (a) kidney histopathology score (Heijnen's scores), and (b) the percentage of kidney fibrosis score were assessed of kidney in female and male wild rats (*Rattus rattus*)

# 5. Summary

Sixty adult female and male wild rats of the species *Rattus rattus*, weighing 150–200 g, were captured alive from Poultry farm in the Assiut valley for the experiment. They were housed in separate traps for one week at room temperature (25°C), with a typical 12 h light/12 h dark cycle in the animal house of the Zoology Department, Faculty of Science, Assiut University. All animals were fed on wet bread, tomatoes, and tap water. Trapped rats were divided into six groups of ten animals each, including both sexes.

Group (I) was the male control, group II was the female control, groups III and IV were female rats treated orally with warfarin for 18 days 1/4 LD<sub>50</sub> and 1/2 LD<sub>50</sub> at 9 and 18 mg/kg, respectively. Groups V and VI were male rats treated orally with warfarin for 18 days at 27.5 and 55 mg/kg, respectively. Different leukocyte, red blood cell count, serum protein fraction, total bilirubin, direct bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, glucose, albumin, and total protein and ALT and AST activity in blood plasma were estimated using blood samples taken from the jagular vein during rats' scarification in clean, dry, sterile tubes containing heparin. After centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 5 minutes, serum samples were collected from clotted blood without

anticoagulant using anticoagulant buffer. The liver and kidney were diced for further examination such as Western blotting, Immunohistochemistry, Estimation of superoxide dismutase, catalase, activity reduced glutathione, lipid peroxidation and nitric oxide in liver and kidney.

# The results can be summarized in the following points:

The effects of warfarin on liver, kidney, and blood of female & male wild rat have been studied. The administration of warfarin induced a marked oxidative stress. Antigens of different related functions as the level of CYP2C9, NRf2 and the level of P450 were investigated by western blot analysis or the level of casp.3 was observed by immunohistochemistry. Total blood serum protein fraction, white blood cell differential count and red blood cell and body weight were studied to clarify the effect of warfarin at serological and immunological levels.

Accordingly, warfarin oral intake cause sever toxicity in plasma, liver and kidney concluded by biochemical parameters in plasma and Antioxidants and oxidative stress biomarkers of liver and kidney. The increasing oxidative stress in the liver and kidney due to warfarin orally intake in wild rat cause by the following mechanisms:

1- Pathomorphological changes of wild rats various as dormancy, dull eyes, and hemorrhages of many regions of the body. And the regulation of CYP2C9 appears to be dependent on NRf2 and the level of P450, and affects the amount of bleeding.

- 2- A decrease in NRf2 is considered to be a non-defense system against oxidative stress, decreasing the endogenous antioxidant defense system and accelerating hemorrhage.
- 3- Free hemoglobin and decreased serum albumin and antitrypsin activate cleaved caspases-3, inducing apoptosis and fibrosis after liver hemorrhage and bleeding.
- 4- Intracellularly, free hemoglobin caused by warfarin activates cleaved caspases-3 and induces apoptosis after liver hemorrhage. The intracellular hemoglobin activates proinflammatory pathways a significant role in the pathogenesis of acute liver injury.
- 5- The by-products of lipid peroxidation such as malondialdehyde (MDA) detected in the liver of iron-loaded rats, act as profibrogenic stimuli. free hemoglobin released by RBCs in the liver lumen and increased lipid peroxidation.

6- Warfarin increases serum transferrin and lipid peroxidation, which are pro-fibrogenic stimuli, by elevating iron levels and hemosiderin, promoting fibrosis and the pathogenesis of acute liver and kidney injury.

- 7- warfarin effect on NRF2 path way and inhibit it to bind antioxidant response elements lead to decreasing in endogenous antioxidant defense system (SOD, CAT & GSH).
- 8- Since warfarin is primarily bound to serum albumin, hypoalbuminemia is likely to increase the free fraction of warfarin and to increase the risk of bleeding & hemorrhagic.
- 9- Warfarin reduces antitrypsin which lead to decrease modulate systemic inflammatory responses, stimulate apoptosis and fibrosis by deposition of collagen fibers in liver cell. Also, antitrypsin has affecting a wide range of inflammatory cells such as neutrophils, monocytes, lymphocytes, RBC, and eosinophil cells.
- 10- Elevated iron level is a common feature of all these fibrosis-promoting warfarin exposures led to increase in serum transferrin and accumulation of Hemosiderin after bleeding.

11- Warfarin-related nephropathy (WRN) refers to glomerular leaking of red blood cells that causes tubular injury and chronic kidney diseases.

12- Warfarin oral intake cause sever toxicity in plasma, liver and kidney and decreased of vitamin K which led to change in many Biochemical parameters in plasma and Antioxidants and oxidative stress biomarkers of liver and kidney as an increase on LPO, ALT, AST, ALP, creatinine, plasma glucose, direct bilirubin, total bilirubin, uric acid and urea. Also, it was decrease of GSH, SOD, CAT, and NO. Warfarin produced clear dose-related hepatotoxic, reno toxicity and pathological effects in the rat.