Assay and biochemical effect of long term high dose and abuse administration of ceftriaxone
In experimental animals

Mansour Hamed Mohamed
National Organization for Drug Control and Research NODCAR

ABSTRACT

Ceftriaxone is a drug proved to have efficacy on community acquired infection including uncomplicated gonorrhea, acute pyelonephritis and various infections in children. Recent studies have demonstrated that ceftriaxone induces reversible precipitates in the gallbladder. This complication is referred to as "biliary pseudolithiasis", and it has symptoms similar to the liver dysfunction usually occurs in children receiving high doses of ceftriaxone. The patient's jaundice subsides, and the liver function test results usually improve, and return to baseline levels after the end duration of treatment. The present study was designed to describe the effect of high dose and abuse treatment of experimental rats with ceftriaxone (500 and 1000 mg/kg B.W.) every 12 hours for one week on liver function tests.. After 7 days of therapy, (ALT, AST), total, direct, and indirect bilirubin levels were evaluated in the experimental rats and the concentration of the drug was determined by high pressure chromatography. The results of the study showed significant elevation in all measured parameters by the end of one week ceftriaxone therapy. Therefore, it could be concluded that the choice of a more safe and potent antibiotics require selective investigation concerning the group of antibiotic, the dosage and the duration as well as the type of disease(1).

INTRODUCTION

Antibiotics are substances, produced in substrates during the growth of microorganism, which in low concentration destroy or inhibit the growth of other species of microorganism. Therefore, the antibiotics are generally considered as antimicrobial and in other conditions are used as anti-infection drug. Third-generation cephalosporins is commonly used and proved to have antimicrobial activity against many gram-positive and gram-negative organisms. Generally, ceftriaxone is a safe antibiotic(3), however, symptomatic biliary sludge has been reported in rare instances, most of which have involved children. It is uncommon for ceftriaxone to cause increases in laboratory indices, such as bilirubin levels and (AST,ALT), used similarly to cefataxime for the treatment of susceptible(2) infections. They include Chancroid, endocarditis, shigellosis, gonorrhea, lyme diseases, Meningitis, Pneumonia, septicaemia, syphilis, and typhoid fever. It is also used for surgical infection prophylaxis.
The present study deals with the HPLC assay to evaluate the efficacy of the drug ceftriaxone on the long term high dose and abuse administration effect on experimental animal rats. The dosage as well as duration of the antibiotic administration were also considered.

**MATERIALS & METHODS**

1- **Test drug**
Ceftriaxone, SANDOZ 500 mg and 1 gm as (ceftriaxone sodium cephalosporins antibiotics)

2- **Dosage and Administration**
20 to 50 mg/kg once daily, the maximum dose should not exceed 50 mg/kg once daily (equivalent to 500 and 1000mg/vial) were administrated two time every 12 hrs in a dose of 20 and 50 mg/kg body weight for a one week. These doses were equivalent to human therapeutic dose of the test drug

3- **Experimental Design**
40 Male albino rats from the animal house of National Organization for Drug Control and Research (NODCAR) weighting 150-250 grams were used in the study. Control animals were included simultaneously with experimental groups. Rats were divided equally into four groups ten in each. All rates were fed on the normal basal diet and treated with the equivalent therapeutic dose of antibiotic drug ceftriaxone.

**Group (1)** rats fed on the normal basal diet for a period of one week and not treated with ceftriaxone used as a control.

**Group (2)** rats fed on the normal basal diet and treated with ceftriaxone 500 mg/kg b.w for a period of one week.

**Group (3)** rats fed on the normal basal diet and treated with ceftriaxone 1000 mg/kg b.w, for a period of one week

**Group (4)** rats fed also on the normal basal diet and treated twice daily with alternative doses of ceftriaxone one time with a dose (500) mg/kg b.w. and the other with (1000 ) mg/kg b.w for a period of one week.

4- **Chemicals**
All chemicals were of pure analytical grade (HPLC 100 %), Purchased from Biosystems , Randox and Biomerieux

**HPLC assay of ceftriaxone according to**

**Mobile phase**
Buffer PH 7 13.6gm dibasic potassium sulfate + 4 grams monobasic potassium phosphates complete with distilled water to 1 liter, adjust PH till 7 with H3PO4 or KOH Buffer PH 5 25.8 gm of sodium citrate in 500 ml distilled water, adjust PH till 5 with H3PO4 or KOH

3.2 gm heptansulphonic acid in 400 ml Acetonitril + 44 ml buffer PH 7 + 4 ml buffer PH 5 and complete with distilled water to 1 liter

**HPLC Conditions:**
Column C18 phenomenx (4.6 mm x 125 mm x 5u) or equivalent
Flow rate = 2 ml/min
Wave length 270 nm
Chart speed 0.5 cm/min
Retention time 1.458 min to separate the test drug antibiotic ceftriaxone and the percentage of the drug concentration in each vial was determined

5- **Blood samples** were withdrawn from retinobulbar venous plexus by
means of fine capillary glass tube. Sera were separated and kept at –2 degree centigrade until the time of determination of the following parameters:

a- Total, direct, and indirect bilirubin serum levels\(^{(6)}\).

b- AST(SGOT) and ALT(SGPT) aminotransferase enzyme activities\(^{(7)}\).

**Statistical analysis:**

The obtained data were statistically analyzed by NOVA using\(^{(8)}\) for different groups, and p<0.05 was considered significant.

**RESULTS**

The data shown by high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) revealed that the mean peak area of the ceftriaxone standard= 524405, the mean peak area in either case of the ceftriaxone tests are = 54355 (500 mg/kg b.w) and 540353 (1000 mg/kg b.w)

The mean values of the peak area of the test, standard and concentration of ceftriaxone in either case (500, 1000) mg/kg b.w respectively by high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Retention time,peak area and concentration of ceftriaxone in the different groups of the study.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retention time by min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration of ceftriaxone %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Fig 1: Mean peak area of ceftriaxone test and standard](image_url)
The concentration of ceftriaxone in the two cases can be determined by dividing the mean peak area of the test divided on the mean peak area of the standard x100 as $\frac{544355}{524405} \times 100 = 103.8 \%$, $(103.8 \times 500) = 519.02$ mg/kg b.w and 103.75% which equivalent 1037.5 mg/kg b.w respectively and system suitability was adjust.

Elevations concomitant with antibiotic ceftriaxone administration were detected in serum total and conjugated bilirubin, serum ALT (SGPT) and AST (SGOT). However, aggravated hyperbilirubinemia effect were noticed in long term high dose and abuse administration in groups 3 and 4 as shown in table 2.

### Table 2: Serum Total, direct and indirect bilirubin (mg/100) (Mean values ±SE) of experimental male albino rats treated with long term high dose and abuse of ceftriaxone (500 and 1000 /mg/b.w ) compared to normal duration and control.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biochemical Parameters (mg/100)</th>
<th>Group (1) Control</th>
<th>Group (2) Normal duration</th>
<th>Group(3) long term high dose</th>
<th>Group(4) Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Bilirubin</td>
<td>0.35±0.5</td>
<td>0.40**±0.15</td>
<td>0.70**±0.03</td>
<td>0.82**±0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct bilirubin D. Bilirubin</td>
<td>0.15±0.002</td>
<td>0.20*±0.002</td>
<td>0.25**±0.002</td>
<td>0.28**± 0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect bilirubin I. Bilirubin</td>
<td>0.20±0.002</td>
<td>0.20±0.002</td>
<td>0.35**±0.007</td>
<td>0.47**±0.007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$P>0.05$ Non Significant

**$P<0.01$ Highly Significant**

![Fig 2: Mean values of serum total, direct and indirect bilirubin in the four different groups](image-url)
The transient elevation in liver enzyme (AST and ALT) values reported during the normal duration of the test drug antibiotic administration in group (2) was replicated nearly twice time or more in long term high dose and abuse of ceftriaxone. Mainly significantly elevated values were recorded in ALT (SGPT) and AST (SGOT) enzymes in groups (3 and 4). Meanwhile, AST was extended in the elevation from group (3) to group (4) and maintained elevated after the administration of the ceftriaxone due to the extend of the half life elimination of AST immunoglobulin complex as shown in the table 3.

Table 3: Serum ALT (SGPT) and AST (SGOT) u/L (Mean values ±SE) of experimental male albino rats treated with long term high dose and abuse of ceftriaxone compared to control and normal duration of the test drug.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biochemical Parameters (U/L)</th>
<th>Group (1) Control</th>
<th>Group (2) Normal duration</th>
<th>Group (3) long term high dose</th>
<th>Group(4) Abuse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALT (SGPT)</td>
<td>6.5±0.5</td>
<td>13.8**±0.7</td>
<td>20.8**±1.2</td>
<td>24.5**±1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST (SGOT)</td>
<td>9.8±0.5</td>
<td>11.5*±0.7</td>
<td>14.8 **±0.9</td>
<td>18.7±1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AST/ALT ratio</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.83**</td>
<td>0.71**</td>
<td>0.76**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*P* > 0.05   Non Significant  
**P* < 0.01 High Significant

![Fig 3: Mean values of serum ALT, AST u/L and AST/ALT ratio in the four different groups](image-url)
DISCUSSION

In the present study, the biological effect of long term and abuse administration of ceftriaxone were studied in experimental animals.

The results of this study showed that the administration of ceftriaxone 500 and 1000 (mg/kg.b.w) did not cause any marked elevations in the serum direct bilirubin this means that no displacement for the conjugated bilirubin has occurred in normal rats injected with ceftriaxone\(^9,10\).

Similar finding were demonstrated\(^11\), who failed to demonstrate any measurable displacement of bilirubin from albumin in newborn infants given the antibiotic. Therefore, the recorded increase in serum total bilirubin as in groups (3 and 4) could be referred to increase in unconjugated form\(^12\).

It may be pointed out that unconjugated hyperbilirubinaemia\(^9\) can result from toxin induced liver dysfunction such as that caused by chloroform, arsphenamines, carbon tetrachloride, acetaminophen, hepatitis virus and cirrhosis etc. Although most of this acquired disorders could be due to pranchnymal cell damage, there is frequently a component of obstruction of biliary tree within the liver that may results in the presence of some conjugated hyperbilirubinaemia\(^13\). The undue effect of ceftriaxone seemed to be belonging to symptoms similar to the last disorder, since, it has been indicated in groups (3 and 4).

The results shown in group (3 and 4) revealed that the two ceftriaxone doses (500 and 1000) mg/kg.b.w caused elevation in the serum total bilirubin level at the end of experimental period. Such an effect could be due to residual property appeared after the excretion of the antibiotic from tissues to the bile. these explanation seemed consistence with previous reports stated that there is extensive excretion of ceftriaxone in bile\(^12\).

The recorded elevations seemed consistent with previous studies which reported that ceftriaxone competition with bilirubin for albumin binding\(^14\) therefore, it may increase serum bilirubin level\(^15\).

Elevations in serum total bilirubin that was not coupled with similar elevations of serum direct bilirubin started from initial administration of ceftriaxone and maintained with the same significance of magnitude (in case of long term high dose and abuse administration) until the end of the experimental period (one week) of rats, could be referred to the competition between the excess serum total bilirubin and ceftriaxone with the high affinity sites of albumin where excess bilirubin can be bound only loosely to the low affinity\(^16\) site.

It may be also pointed out that a number of compounds such as antibiotics and other drugs compete with bilirubin for the high affinity binding site on albumin\(^17\).

As it has been previously recorded that the treatment of experimental rats with ceftriaxone in normal duration to the end of experimental period (one week) not cause any effect on serum AST, ALT and T.bilirubin .Therefore , any significant fluctuations in these enzymes would be consequences of the long term high dose and abuse administration of ceftriaxone only.
The data shown in (group 3, and 4) proved that this was the case where, almost always, identical significance of magnitude for the recorded elevations under long term high dose and abuse conditions were indicated after administration of the ceftriaxone. Meanwhile, similar duration of effects were also recorded.

The recorded elevations in serum level of AST and ALT seemed consistent with the general properties of the groups to which the ceftriaxone were recorded(18). According to these authors the abnormality in liver enzymes during ceftriaxone were probably with no clinical significance, other authors also reported that cephalosporins liver enzymes elevations have been transient, returning to normal after withdrawal of treatment at the end of experimental period (one week) as in group (2).

The data shown in group (3 and 4) revealed that the elevations recorded in AST and ALT level after the administration of the two dosages (500,1000 mg/kg/b.w) of cefatriaxone to normal rats were persistent until the end of the experimental period. This finding could be due to the so called macro AST. In this conditions the specific enzyme protein is bound to an immunoglobulin (usually to IgG) and the prolonged half-life elimination of the enzyme immunoglobulin complex is thus extended(19).

It may be pointed out that the recorded elevations in the serum in AST and ALT seemed to be characteristic for the ceftriaxone antibiotic, these results were consistent with those reported by (20) for the third–generation cephalosporin.

The AST/ALT ratio that was performed according to(21), was significantly varied from the corresponding controls under normal duration to the long term high dose and abuse conditions. Similar findings were indicated after investigating the relationship between therapy with cephalosporins antibiotic (ceftriaxone) and alteration in serum level enzymes and bilirubin in human subjects)

**Conclusion**

The prementioned results strongly suggest that antibiotic test cefatriaxone as well as the long term high dose treatment and abuse administration displayed variable side effects on serum total bilirubin pattern as well as liver enzymes under normal conditions. Meanwhile, in case of long term high dose and abuse administration of ceftriaxone aggravated the recorded side effect showing symptoms similar to liver dysfunction in many case of hyperbilirubinaemia and jaundiced conditions. However, calcium ceftriaxone salts was a major component of bile stone associated with biliary sludge and pseudolithiasis(22,23).

This study confirms the possibility of precocious biliary lithiasis under ceftriaxone therapy in childhood and their spontaneous dissolution after discontinuation of the drug. Therefor, caution in the treatment of neonates, ill children aging less or equal 10 years, (hypoprothrombinemia children) (24) and some jaundiced adult by high dose and abuse of ceftriaxone. Therefor, it may also convenient to
reduce ceftriaxone dosage during treatment to prevent the habituation and synthesized conditions of pseudolithiasis, biliary sludge (25) and intractable hiccups (26). Clinicians need to be aware of the association of ceftriaxone with biliary pseudolithiasis, and jaundiced patients, were monitor accordingly.

It may pointed out that biliary pseudolithiasis were also occur in children receiving high dose of ceftriaxone. The antibacterial and pharmacokinetic benefits of ceftriaxone outweigh the problem of reversible biliary pseudolithiasis with this drug.

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دراسة حيوية تتضمن الفيتامينات كمضادات حيوية بجرعات مفرطة وعالياً

وزيرة للمواطنين

مصدر:

تم إجراء التجربة على 42 فأرًا من النوع الأليف قسمت إلى أربع مجموعات كل مجموعة تحتوي على 10 أفراد من المجموعة الأولى، وطورت مجموعة سلبية صفراء، وامتدت المجموعة الثانية تحتوي على نفس الجرعة السابقة وتطورت للمضادات النازفة المذكورة 10000 مجم ومجموعة الثالثة تحتوي على نفس الجرعة وتطورت للمضادات النازفة 5000 مجم و10000 مجم هذا وقد استغرقت التجربة أسبوعًا ثم بعد سبع ساعات وجد بعد قسم الالكalin 3-10 مستويات القشرة الكلية 3-الخضرة المرتبطة

وبسبب الصراع المرتبطة

وذكر الأزمات النازفة للأيين كالأشياء والأوتامن هذا وقد سبق ذلك فعل مضادات الخفيف على أجهزة التحكم الدقيق تحت الظروف العالم (الكروماتوجرافيا) بعد حقن المادة المناسبة للمضادات تحت نفس الظروف وتطور الوقت لتحديد ترقيم مضادات الخفيف قبل البدء في استعماله للأيذ في ضوء الاعتبار كنافاة لعلاج الأعراض الناظمة باستخدامها لهذا فقد أظهرت النتائج ما يلي:

1- ترقيم الدواء يصل إلى 10% قبل البدء في استخدام كعقار وكذلك بعد فصل هنا أجهزة التحكم الدقيق مما

بدأ على كفاءته المتطرفة عند الاستخدام.

2- أحدث الخفيف زيادة مؤقتة للمضادات النازفة للأيين حيث تزودت هذه زيادة بزراع المؤثر أي تكون إلى معدلاتها

طبقية بعد أن يكون حقن كما في المجموعة الثانية وأخرى أظهرت احتفاظ الدراسات متعددة ومباشرة للعودة إلى المستوى الطبيعية لها (الطور الطول فترة نصف العمر للمركبات من المستحيل وأزيملوميوجينين يا جي جي)

3- أحدث الاستخدام الطويل المفرط لجرعات عالية من المستحيل إلى زيادة في مستوى الخفيفة الكلية والخضرة المرتبطة وون هذا أحدث خلا في إزالة الكبد النازفة للأيمن كما في المجموعة الثالثة ورابعة

4- وفيما قد خلق الخفيف بمضادات الخفيف أعضا ام بحال للتفيك وقد تكون هذه الأعراض مؤشرًا حقيقية تحدث صدود مراوية أو انتفاخ مؤقتا في مفرقات الحوصلة المرارية نتيجة استخدام الجرعة المفرطة

واعالة الترقيم للمضادات على مدى الطويل.

5- ونذكر النتائج السابقة أن الخفيف بمضادات الخفيف المذكور أدى إلى تعمق الأعراض السلبية السبعة كما يمتلك هذه الأعراض الربطية والحرار في العلاج بمضادات الخفيف المذكور للأطفال حيث يتكون من مضادات حيوية ونلاحظ أن النتائج في الدك وأهلا في الأيمن من نحو سنتان ونذكر البالغين الذين يعانون من أعراض للكد كالنفط وغيرهما من الأمراض المرتبطة

محمود