# The Possible Therapeutic Effect of Rebamipide and Stem Cell<br/>Derivative Microvesicles on Experimentally Provoked Colitis in<br/>Rats: Histological and Immuno Hisochemical Study

Original Article

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# ABSTRACT

**Background** Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a chronic inflammatory disorder. Clinically, there are periods of pain in abdomen and bloody diarrhea. The used medication induce clinical diminution, but with many difficulties.

Aim of the study Evaluation the beneficial outcomes of rebamipide and microvesicles come from mesenchymal stem cells on treatment of induced colitis.

**Material and methods** Fifty adult male albino rats were divided into 5 groups. Group I was the control group. Group II rats received intra-colonic instillation of 1 ml/rat/day of 5% acetic acid (5% v/v) for 3 sequential days. Group III Rats were received a suspension of (1% rebamipide and 1.5% carboxy-methyl cellulose), intra-colonic in a dose 1 mL/kg/day after provocation of colitis for 14 days. Group IV rats were given out a single dose of 15  $\mu$ g of microvesicles dissolved in 0.5 ml of phosphate buffered solution (PBS) delivered intravenous in caudal vein after provocation of colitis. Group V rats were given microvesicles and Rebamipide as Group III and Group IV after provocation of colitis. The colon sections were managed and examined using histological and immunohistochemical study.

**Results** Group II showed patchy ulceration with loss of surface epithlium and under-lying connective tissue. There is infiltration of mononuclear cells and congested blood vessels in lamina propria and sub mucosa. Group III showed near-normal mucosa with surface columnar cell and goblet cells in some areas with discontinuity in certain areas. Group IV showed almost intact mucosa. Group V showed intact mucosa with surface absorptive cells and goblet cells close to control group.

**Conclusion:** Each of rebamipide and microvesicle improved the prompted ulcerative colitis, but their combination was more effective.

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Key Words: Colon, microvesicles, rebamipide, ulcerative.

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## INTRODUCTION

Ulcerative colitis (UC) is accompanied by occasions of abrupt reductions and exacerbations of inflammation. UC distress the rectum and different areas of the proximal colon<sup>[1]</sup>. Colonic mucosa exhibits inflammation, ulceration. So, the patient complain of bloody diarrhea, abdominal spasms and weight loss<sup>[2]</sup>. The inflammatory procedure is accompanied by inflammatory cells infiltration in the mucosa and sub mucosa and increased production of mediators of inflammation [(tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), interleukin (IL) 1 $\beta$ , IL- 6, IL-17, and IL-21 and reactive oxygen species (ROS)<sup>[3]</sup>. The treatment focuses on managing inflammation and inhibiting disease progress and involves systemic and topical steroid, 5-aminosalicylate compounds, and immunosuppressive agents<sup>[4]</sup>. Additionally, clinical trials are currently assessing the application of stem cell transplantation in UC and bone marrow transplantation has been used<sup>[5,6]</sup>.

Rebamipide {2- (4chlorobenzoylamino)-3 [2-(1H) quinolinon4yl] propionic acid}, is a cytoprotective vehicle that enhance epithelial renewal, control inflammation and free radicals deposition<sup>[7]</sup>. Rebamipide has an effectual role in modification of proteins that form the tight junction of mucosal cells so, preserve the integrity of the mucosa<sup>[8,9]</sup>. The imbalance that appears between T helper 17 (h17) /T regulatory cell in UC is adjusted by rebamipide<sup>[10-12]</sup>.

Stem cells represent a possible approach for tissue restore and redevelopment. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) are multi-potent and self-renewing cells, that present in all post natal organs<sup>[13]</sup>. Bone marrow originated mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) have capacity to heal induced mucosal colonic injury in rats<sup>[14]</sup>. BMSCs secrete microvesicles (MVs) that play a significant role in repair and differentiation of impaired tissue<sup>[15]</sup>. The content of MVs indicates the cell of origin. So, if microvesicles were isolated from MSCs, they carry their character.

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Microvesicles are composed of membrane fragments surrounding bioactive lipids, cytoplasmic proteins and nucleic acids<sup>[16]</sup>. So, Microvesicles discharged by BMSCs afford a new supplier and a great potential donor for regenerative medicine, Reestablishing normal structure and function of injured tissue, through the capability of MVs to deliver molecules that improve cell division<sup>[17]</sup>.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Reagents

Acetic acid: (El-Naser Pharmaceutical Chemicals Company, Egypt) 5% acetic acid<sup>[18,19]</sup>.

Rebamipide: (Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) a suspension of 1% Rebamipide in 1.5% carboxymethylcellulose (1gm of rebamipide and 1.5gm of carboxymethylcellulose in 97.5 ml water) (Dai-Ichi Chemical Industries, Tokyo, Japan) in water. This enema suspensions were dispensed per rectum in a volume of 1 mL/kg body weight in the morning for 14 days<sup>[20]</sup>.

Mesenchymal stem cells derived microvesicles: They were prepared in Biochemistry Departments, Kasr Al-Ainy Faculty of Medicine, from BM-derived MSCs through conditioned medium by ultracentrifugation. Each animal was given a single dose of 15  $\mu$ g of MVs dissolved in 0.5 ml of phosphate buffered solution (PBS) intravenously in caudal vein<sup>[21]</sup>.

# Animals

This study was done on 50 adult male albino rats, with an average weight of 180 - 200 grams. Animals were settled in the animal research laboratory unit of Kasr Al-Ainy Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. Firm nursing and cleaning procedures were employed to keep the animal in a typical well condition, the animals were settled in animal coop at room temperature ( $25 \pm 1^{\circ}C$ ), relative humidity ( $55 \pm 5$ ) with 12h light/12h dark cycle, fed standard basal diet and water. Rats were acclimated to these conditions for two weeks before beginning the experiment. All morals rules for animal management were monitored. The experimental protocol was advised by the Institutional Animal Care Committee.

#### Experimental procedure

(1) Group I (the control group): was divided into 2 sub-groups:

Group I a: Rats received a suspension of 1.5% carboxymethyl-cellulose in a volume of 1 mL/kg/day body weight in the morning for 14 days, using soft pediatric catheter of external diameter 2 mm. Catheter was lubricated with gel inserted for a distance of 8 cm.

Group I b: Rats received 0.5 ml of phosphate buffered solution (PBS) delivered intravenously in caudal vein.

(2) Group II (UC group): 10 rats received 5% acetic acid by intra-colonic instillation of 1 ml/rat/day mL/kg 3 subsequent days , using soft pediatric catheter of external

diameter 2 mm, colon 8 cm proximal to anal opening, sustained in a supine Trendelenburg position for 30 s to avoid outflow of the intracolonic instillation.

(3) Group III (UC with Rebamipide): 10 rats received 1 mL of (an enema suspension of 1% Rebamipide in 1.5% carboxymethylcellulose) /kg body weight intra-colonic in the morning, 8 cm proximal to anal opening at the 4th day after acetic acid injection.

(4) Group IV (UC with MVs): 10 rats received microvesicles by intravenous route at the 4th day after acetic acid injection.

(5) Group V (UC with MVs and Rebamipide): 10 rats received rebamipide and microvesicles as Group III and Group IV after induction of ulceration.

#### Induction of ulcerative colitis

Colitis was produced according to the process illustrated by some authors<sup>[18,19]</sup>. Rats were retained under thiopental anesthesia (50 mg/kg; given out by intra-peritoneal (ip) injection) after a 24-h fast, and a 2.7-mm-diameter soft pediatric catheter was lubricated with gel and then inserted 8 cm proximal to the anus. A solution of 1 ml /rat/day of acetic acid (5% v/v) was instilled into the colon and continued in a supine Trendelenburg position for 30 s to evade outflow of the intracolonic instillation.

#### Light microscopic studies

The fasted rats were anesthetized with ether and sacrificed by means of cervical decapitation. Rats in group II were sacrificed at 4<sup>th</sup> day after intrarectal injection of acetic acid (induction of UC). Rats in other groups were sacrificed 2 weeks after generation of UC. The abdominal cavities were rapidly opened and the distal colon was removed. The specimens were fixed in 10% buffered formal saline and managed for paraffin sections of 5–7  $\mu$ m thickness, and fixed on glass slides for H&E, and alcian blue stain<sup>[22]</sup>. Other portions were affixed on positively charged slides for immunohistochemical study using avidin biotin immunohistochemical staining for TNF- $\alpha$  And PCNA reaction<sup>[23]</sup>.

# Immunohistochemical staining for tumor necrosis factor a

Immunohistochemical detection of TNF- $\alpha$  in the cells of the colon was carried out by means of standard avidin–biotin–peroxidase complex system as per the instructions on the kit used (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark). Monoclonal mouse anti-human antibody was used as the primary antibody against TNF- $\alpha$ . Sections were fixed on positively charged glass slides. The paraffin sections were dep- araffinized, hydrated, and preserved in 10% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to block endogenous peroxidase activity, and the slides were rinsed in running water and PBS. The primary specific antibody was diluted 1: 300 with PBS. The slides were incubated with primary antibody in a chamber at 4°C. After incubation, they were rinsed three times in PBS and

incubated for 30 min at 37°C with the biotinylated secondary antibody diluted 1 : 500 with PBS+0.1% saponin. The site of antibody immunostaining was visualized after incubation with the avidin–biotin–peroxidase complex (ABC reagent) for 30 min and afterwashing with PBS. Freshly prepared diaminobenzidine was used as chromogen. The sections were incubated with diaminobenzidine for 10 min and then washed with tap water, counterstained with hematoxylin, dehydrated, and mounted. For negative control, the primary antibody was replaced with PBS (phosphate buffered solution)<sup>[23]</sup>.

# Immunohistochemical staining of PCNA

PCNA protein in the sections of the colon was limited by a standard immunohistochemicalmethod. Briefly, after deparaffinization and rehydration, buffered-formalinfixed sections were treated with 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 30min at room temperature to quench endogenous peroxidase. The sections were washed with trisbuffered saline (TBS) having 0.1% Tween 20 (TBS-T) for 5x 10min, then blocked with5% normal goat serum for 1 h at room temperature. After again washing with TBS-T for 5x10 min, the sections were incubated with 1:50 dilution of primary antibody rabbit polyclonal anti-PCNA (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) (AbcamInc., Cambridge, MA, USA) overnight at 4C. The immune complexes of antigens with primary antibodies on the tissue section were noticed by using the secondary antibody anti-rabbit immunoglobulinG (IgG) conjugated with biotin and were visualized with the use of a 3,3-diaminobenzidine peroxidase substrate kit (Vector Labs, Burlington, Canada). The negative staining control were the sections incubated with normal rabbit IgG as a primary antibody or without the primary antibody<sup>[23]</sup>.

#### **Preparation of microvesicles**

MSCs cultured for 24 h with Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM). After this time, the medium was assembled, centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes then at 2500 rpm for 15 minutes and filtered through 0.4 5 µm filter to remove the cells. The animals received .5ml of a single dose of CM provided intravenously<sup>[24]</sup>. They were originated from the conditioned medium by ultracentrifugation by thermo scientific ultracentrifuge in Biochemistry Department, Kasr Al-Ainy Faculty of Medicine. The medium was ultracentrifuged at 100,000 g for one hour at 4°C to pellet microvesicles. The pellets were occupied and suspended in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) [25,26], Microvesicles were prepared by separation of MSC from the expanding medium after centrifugation and removing the supernatant which was centrifuged and filtered several times to get the microvesicles. Microvesicles pellets were prepared for visualization by transmission electron microscope (TEM). Microvesicles pellets were gently located on Formvar-coated copper grids, allowed to adsorb for 4-5 min, and processed for standard uranyl-acetate staining. The grid was washed with three changes of PBS and allowed to semidry at room temperature before inspection by TEM<sup>[24]</sup> (Figure 1).



**Fig. 1:** A transmission electron micrograph of purified microvesicls with spheroid appearance and their size about 500 nm (arrows). (TEM x 4000)

#### Morphometric and statistical study

The mean area% of Alcian blue, TNF-Alpha reaction, and PCNA immuno-expression was quanti-fied in 5 images from 5 rats of each group using Statistical Package for Social Science software computer program version 22 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Data were presented in mean and standard deviation. One way Anal¬ysis of variance (ANOVA) with Post Hoc tukey tests were used for comparing quantitative parametric differences among the groups. The data was extracted as the mean (M) value, standard deviation (SD) and differences were believed to be sta¬tistically significant (sig) at p < 0.05 value.

# RESULTS

# Histological results

#### H&E Results

Group I showed apparently normal mucosa with simple columnar epithelium and goblet cells. The Lamina Propria showed regular arranged closely related crypts. Also, muscularis mucosa appeared in this section (Figure 2). Group II showed showed patchy ulceration with absence of mucosa folding, loss of surface columnar epithelial lining, and distorted crypts with a few goblet cells, Lamina propria and submucosa showed heavy mononuclear cellular infiltration. There were congested blood vessels in lamina propria and submucosa (Figure 3). Group III showed discontinuity in mucosal surface in some areas with apparently normal mucosa with simple columnar epithelium and goblet cells in other areas. Lamina propria showed many apparently normal crypts with some damaged crypts. There were mononuclear cellular infiltration cell infiltration and congested blood vessels in lamina propria and submucosa (Figure 4). Group IV showed apparently intact mucosa with surface simple columnar absorptive epithelial cells and goblet cells and nearly regular organized closely related crypts Lamina propria and submucosa showed minimal mononuclear cellular infiltration. (Figure 5). Group V showed apparently intact mucosa close to control, with simple columnar epithelium and goblet cells and regularly arranged crypts in lamina propria. Sub mucosa and muscularis mucosa more or less close, were close to control group in their structure. (Figure 6).

#### Alcian blue results

Group I showed numerous alcian blue positive stained goblet cells, that formed main lining of crypts of lamina propria of colon. (Figure 7). Group II showed few alcian blue positive stained goblet cells (Figure 8). Group III showed some alcian blue positive stained goblet cells (Figure 9). Group IV showed many alcian blue positive stained goblet cells (Figure 10). Group V showed numerous alcian blue positive stained goblet cells. (Figure 11).

## Immunohistochemical detection of TNF-a.

Group I showed faint tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  reaction (Figure 12). Group II showed dense expression of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  reaction (Figure 13). Group III showed moderate expression of tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (Figure 14).

Group IV showed low expression of tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  reaction (Figure 15). Group V showed faint tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  reaction more or less close to control (Figure 16).

### Immunohistochemical detection of PCNA

Group I showed numerous PCNA immunopositive nuclei in form of dark brown stained nuclei of mucosal cells (Figure 17). Group II showed few PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the mucosal cells (Figure 18). Group III showed some PCNA immune-positive nuclei in the cells covering the mucosal surface. (Figure 19). Group IV showed many PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the mucosal cells of colon mucosa (Figure 20). Group V showed numerous PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the colon mucosa (Figure 21).

#### Morphometric results

Group II showed significant decrease in the mean area % of alcian blue stained goblet cells within mucosal crypts when compared with group I, significant increase in the area % of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction expression when compared to control group and significant decrease in area % of the immunopositive nuclei for PCNA reaction compared to group I.

Group III showed significant decrease in the mean area % of alcian blue +ve goblet cells when compared to control group. There was significant increase in the area % of TNF- $\alpha$  area expression when compared to control group. There was significant decrease in the area % of expression of PCNA positive cells in group III compared to group I. Group IV showed non-significant decrease in the mean % area of alcian blue +ve cells when compared to group I. there was significant increase in % area of TNF- $\alpha$ expression compared to group I. there was non-significant decrease PCNA immunopositive nuclei compared to group I. Group V showed non-significant decrease in the mean % area of alcian blue +ve goblet cells when compared with group I. The area % of TNF- $\alpha$  expression in group V was non significantly increased compared to group I. there was non-significant decrease in the % area of PCNA immunopositive nuclei compared to group I (Table 1,2,3 and Histogram 1,2,3).



Fig. 2: A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon of group I (control) showing normal mucosa with simple columnar absorptive cells (arrow), lamina propria (LP) with normally arranged crypts(CY) with numerous goblet cells. There are more or less nearly normal muscularis mucosa (MM) and Submucosa (SM). (H&E 200)



**Fig. 3:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon of group II (colitis) showing ulceration (double arrows), distorted crypts (DCY), heavy mono nuclear inflammatory cellular infiltration (curved arrows) and congested blood vessel (B). Muscularis mucosa (MM) is thin. Sub mucosa show congested blood vessels (B) and inflammatory cells infiltration. (H & E X 200)



**Fig. 4:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon of Group III (UC and rebamipide) impaired mucosal surface (double arrows) and other regions of approximately normal epithelium (single arrow) and crypts (CY) with many goblet cells (arrows head). Also, there are damaged crypts (DCY) and moderate inflammatory cellular infiltration (curved arrow) in lamina propria (LP), thin muscularis mucosa (MM) and sub mucosa (SM) show congested blood vessels (B). (H& E X 200)



**Fig. 5:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon of Group IV (microvesicles treated group) showing more or less normal mucosal covering, with simple columnar absorptive cells (arrow) with goblet cells (arrows head). Lamina propria show normal crypts (CY) lined with many goblet cells and mild inflammatory cell infiltration in between crypts. The sub mucosa show mild mono nuclear inflammatory cell infiltration (curved arrow) and congested blood vessels (B). (H & E X 200)



**Fig. 6:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon of group V (rebamipide and microvesicles treated group) showing nearly normal mucosa with continuous surface columnar absorptive cells (arrow) with goblet cells (head arrows). Lamina propria (LP) showing regularly arranged closely related crypts (CY) with numerous goblet cells with absence of inflammatory cell infiltration. Muscularis mucosa (MM) with normal thickness. Submucosa (SM) shows normal connective tissue. (H & E X 200)



Fig. 7: A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group I (control) showing numerous alcian blue positive stained goblet cells in colon mucosa and crypts (arrows). (Alcian blue  $\times 200$ )



**Fig. 8:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group II (UC group) showing few alcian blue positive stained goblet cell in colon mucosa and crypts (arrows). (Alcian blue ×200)



**Fig. 9:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group III (UC and rebamipide) showing some alcian blue positive stained goblet cells in colon mucosa and crypts (arrows). (Alcian blue ×200)



Fig. 10: A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group IV (UC and microvesicles) showing many alcian blue positive stained goblet cells in colon mucosa and crypts arrows). (Alcian blue  $\times 200$ )



Fig. 11: A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group V (UC, rebamipide and microvesicles) showing numerous goblet cells in colon mucosa and crypts. (Alcian blue  $\times 200$ )



**Fig. 12:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group I (control group) exhibiting minimal expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for TNF- $\alpha \times 200$ )



**Fig.13:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group II (UC) exhibiting dense expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for TNF- $\alpha \times 200$ )



**Fig. 14:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group III (UC and rebamipide) showing moderate expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for TNF- $\alpha \times 200$ )



**Fig. 15:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon from group 1V (UC and microvesicles) showing minimal expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for TNF- $\alpha \times 200$ )



**Fig. 16:** A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a distal colon group V (UC rebamipide and microvesicles) showing minimal expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction. (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for TNF- $\alpha$  X 200)



**Fig. 17:** A photomicrograph of a section in distal colon of a rat from group I (control group) exhibiting numerous PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the mucosal cells (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for PCNA X 200)



**Fig. 18:** A photomicrograph of a section in distal colon of a rat from group II (UC group) exhibiting few PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the mucosal cells (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for PCNAX 200)



**Fig. 19:** A photomicrograph of a section in the distal colon of group III (UC and rebamipide) exhibiting PCNA immunopositive nuclei (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for PCNA X 200)



**Fig. 20:** A photomicrograph of a section in the colon of a rat from group 1V (UC and microvesicles) exhibiting many PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the cells lining colon mucosa (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for PCNA X 200)



**Fig. 21:** A photomicrograph of a section in the colon of a rat from group V (UC, rebamipide and microvesicles) exhibiting numerous PCNA immunopositive nuclei in the cells lining colon mucosa (arrows). (Immunohistochemistry stain for PCNA X 200)

#### EFFECT OF REBAMIPIDE AND MICRO VESICLES ON COLITIS

		GROUPS					
		Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Р
	Mean	15.76	1.425	4.479	12.35	13.90	< 0.001*
	±SD	3.152	0.2850	0.8958	3.869	4.580	
			P1=<0.001*	P1=<0.001*	P1=0.1	P1=0.65	
Alcian blue				P2=0.01*	P2=<0.001*	P2=<0.001*	
	significance				P3=<0.001*	P3=<0.001*	
						P4=0.78	
			А	A,B	B,C	B,C	

Table 1: Showing the mean area % and SD of Alcian blue among all groups with difference between all groups by Post Hoc tukey test

SD:standard deviation P:Probability \*:significance <0.05

Test used: One way ANOVA followed by post-hoc tukey

A =P1: significance relative to Group 1

B = P2: significance relative to Group 2

C=P3: significance relative to Group 3 D=P4: significance relative to Group 4

**Table 2:** Showing the mean area % and SD of for TNF- $\alpha$  among all groups with comparison between all groups by Post Hoc tukey test

		GROUPS					
		Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Р
	Mean	0.0730	2.046	0.80	0.58	0.355	< 0.001*
	$\pm SD$	0.0146	0.4092	0.25	0.11	0.10	
			P1=<0.001*	P1=<0.001*	P1=<0.001*	P1=0.055	
TNF				P2=<0.001*	P2=<0.001*	P2=<0.001*	
	Posthoc				P3=0.21	P3=<0.001*	
						P4=0.17	
			А	A,B	A,B	B,C	

SD :standard deviationP:Probability\*:significance <0.05</th>SD:standard deviationP:Probability\*:significance <0.05</td> Test used: One way ANOVA followed by post-hoc tukey A =P1: significance relative to Group 1

B = P2: significance relative to Group 2

C=P3: significance relative to Group 3

D=P4: significance relative to Group 4

Table 3: Showing the mean area % and SD of for PCNA among all groups with comparison between all groups by Post Hoc tukey test

			GROUPS				
		Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Р
	Mean	24.40	0.4860	6.844	19.42	20.45	<0.001*
	$\pm SD$	4.479	0.0972	1.169	5.484	6.890	
			P1=<0.001*	P1=<0.001*	P1=0.1	P1=0.29	
PCNA				P2=0.02*	P2=<0.001*	P2=<0.001*	
	Posthoc				P3=<0.001*	P3=<0.001*	
						P4=0.98	
			А	A,B	B,C	B,C	

SD: standard deviation P:Probability \*:significance <0.05

Test used: One way ANOVA followed by post-hoc tukey

A=P1: significance relative to Group 1

B=P2: significance relative to Group 2

C=P3: significance relative to Group 3

D=P4: significance relative to Group



**Histogram 1:** The mean area% of alcian blue-stained positive goblet cells in groups I, II, III, IV and V.



**Histogram 2:** The mean area % of immuno-expression of TNF- $\alpha$  reaction in groups I, II, III, IV and V.



**Histogram 3:** The mean area% of for immuno-expression of PCNA reaction in groups I, II, III, IV and V.

#### DISCUSSION

Ulcerative colitis is an idiopathic chronic and relapsing disorder that influence gastrointestinal tract<sup>[26]</sup>. Although, its pathogenesis stay unwell understood, the immune system of intestinal mucosa acts a vital role in the pathogenesis of Colitis<sup>[27]</sup>. Numerous factors, involving environmental, genetic, infectious and immune factors provoke the disease<sup>[28]</sup>. The existing treatments for UC generally involve steroids, immune-modulating agents, anti-tumor necrosis factor, anti-interferon antibodies and anti- $\alpha$ -integrin drugs. However, symptoms of ulcerative colitis cannot be totally treated<sup>[29]</sup>. Therefore, there is a critical necessity to obtain another method for UC treatment.

Ulcerative colitis was experimentally provoked in the current study by transrectal instillation of acetic acid (5% v/v), similar to the procedure agreed by another author<sup>[30]</sup> who used acetic acid to stimulate an experimental example of UC

The UC group (group II) in the current experiment exhibited ulceration, damaged crypts with widespread neutrophil infiltration and congested blood vessels. Also, Statistically, this was established by significant decrease in the mean area % of alcian blue stained goblet cells when compared with (group I), significant increase in the area% of TNF- $\alpha$  expression when compared to control group and significant decrease in area % of the immunopositive nuclei for PCNA reaction compared to (group I). This was corresponded with some authors<sup>[31]</sup> who exhibited few goblet cells in the mucosa. Those authors<sup>[32,33]</sup> assured there was significant rise of TNF- $\alpha$  expression in colitis group compared with treated group and with<sup>[34]</sup> who showed prominent decrease in PCNA immunepositive nuclei in colitis group than control group.

Acetic acid is is a usual model for studying of ulcerative colitis. It enhance oxidation and lipid peroxidation and free radicals accumulation in colonic mucosa. Lipid peroxidation is a hallmark of free radical provoked tissue destruction<sup>[35]</sup>. Also, reorganisation of unsaturated fatty acids of the membrane trigger damage of lipid membrane ending into tissue impairment, this was illustrated by authors of this study<sup>[36]</sup>. This produce localized inflammation and loss of mucosal integrity producing ulcer development<sup>[37]</sup>.

(Group III) (UC and Rebamipide) in the current study showed areas with mucosal distortion and other areas with integral mucosa. This was confirmed by significant decrease in the mean % area of alcian blue +ve goblet cells when compared to control group. Also, there was significant increase in the % area of TNF- $\alpha$  expression when compared to control group and significant decrease in the % area of expression of PCNA positive cells in (group III) compared to (group I). This was in agreement with<sup>[7]</sup> who expressed healed mucosa of colon after treatment by rebamipide and other scientists<sup>[38]</sup> who, said that, treatment of colitis group with rebamipide illustrated increase in goblet cells and mucin discharged by goblet cells, form a thick mucus gel layer over lying mucosa. The authors of this study<sup>[39]</sup> demonstrated the ability of rebamipide to treat ulcerative colitis and decrease expression of TNF- $\alpha$ reaction in colonic tissue. In agreement with these findings, some scientists<sup>[40]</sup> reported there was intestinal ulceration, that was treated by rebamipide and showed an increase of PCNA immune positive cells.

The role of rebamipide enema to treat ulcerative colitis has been described by some scientists<sup>[41]</sup>. Rebamipide control the release of free radicals, such as hydroxyl radicals and superoxide ions, as described by some authors<sup>[42]</sup>. Also, rebamipide preserve mucosa of colon integral through diminishing the permeability of the mucosa in gastrointestinal tract. It has an active role in adjustment of tight junction proteins of mucosa, which preserve integrity of mucosa as described by some authors<sup>[43]</sup>. All these mechanisms make rebamipide an effective drug for treating ulcerative colitis.

Mesenchymal stem cells are characterized by selfrenewal capacity and high ability of differentiation<sup>[44]</sup>. BMSCs have ability to motivate healing and dampen down inflammation. Now, it is broadly accepted that stem cells exert their therapeutic, immunomodulatory and regenerative procedures through, paracrine mechanisms including soluble molecules and extracellular vesicles. Extracellular vesicles, include exosomes and microvesicles (MVs). MVs are discharged by numerous cells and act as key communicators among cells to transport proteins, lipids and nucleic acids<sup>[45]</sup>. Paracrine signals, Coding and noncoding RNAs are also passed in such microvesicles as reported by some scientists<sup>[46]</sup>. So, MVs present a great potential donor for regenerative medicine, Re-establishing normal construction and function of impaired tissue, through the capability of MVs to deliver molecules that enhance cell division and RNA bioactive molecules<sup>[47]</sup>.

Group IV in the existing study exhibited apparently normal mucosa and crypts. It was confirmed statistically by non-significant decrease in the mean % area of alcian blue +ve cells when compared to group I. This was in agree with those authors<sup>[48]</sup> who demonstrate that, the groups that treated by MSC-derived microvesicles show improvement in regeneration and healing of damaged epithelium and with<sup>[49]</sup> who stated that treatment of induced colitis with mesenchymal stem cells show numerous alcian blue positive cells. Also, there was significant decrease in % area of TNF- $\alpha$  expression compared to group II. The result of TNF- $\alpha$  in present was coincided with authors of this study<sup>[50]</sup> who approved decrease of TNF- $\alpha$  in group treated with microvesicles than colitis group. In the present study, there was increase PCNA immunopositive nuclei which agreed with the observations made by some authors<sup>[51]</sup>.

Group V in this study showed more correction in form of intact constant surface epithelium and intact regularly organized crypts with numerous goblet cells. It was confirmed statistically by non-significant decrease in the mean % area of alcian blue +ve goblet cells when compared with group I and significant increase when compared to group II. The area % of TNF- $\alpha$  expression in group V was non significantly increased compared to group I, significantly increased compared to group I, significant decrease in the % area of PCNA immunopositive nuclei compared to group I and significant increase in the % area of PCNA immunopositive nuclei compared to group II.

In conclusion, each of rebamipide and microvesicle improved the prompted ulcerative colitis, but their combination was more effective.

# **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There are no conflicts of interest.

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الملخص العربي

التاثير العلاجي المحتمل لريبامبيد والحويصلات الدقيقه المستخرجه من الخلايا الجزعيه علي التهاب القولون التقرحي المستحدث تجريبيا في ذكور الجرذان البيضاء البالغه : دراسة نسجية ونسيجو كيميائية مناعية

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المقدمه : يعتبر التهاب القولون التقرحي من امراض الالتهابات المزمنه . يتميز بوجود فترات من الألم في البطن والإسهال الدموي. الدواء المستخدم يحفز على تقليل الاعراض المصاحبه ، ولكن مع وجود العديد من المضاعافات. الهدف من الدراسه : تقييم التأثير العلاجي للريبامبيد والحويصلات الدقيقه المستخرجه من الخلايا الجذعية الوسيطة في علاج التهاب القولون المستحث تجريبيا.

الادوات والطرق: خمسين من ذكور الجرذان البالغة تم تقسيمهم إلى خمس مجموعات: المجموعة الأولى كانت المجموعة الضابطة: تلقت الجرذان محلول ملحي داخل المستقيم. المجموعة الثانية: تم حقن ا الجرذان 1 مل / فأر / يوم من حمض الخليك 5 ٪ لمدة 3 أيام متتابعة داخل المستقيم. المجموعة الثالثة: تم إعطاء الجرذان معلق مكون من (1 ٪ ريبامبيد و 1.5 ٪ كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بجرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بجرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بجرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بحرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بحرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بحرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق المستقيم بحرعة 1 مل / كجم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي لمدة 1.5 % كربوكسي ميثيل السليلوز) ، عن طريق الوريد في الوريد الذيلي بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي . 1.5 % ملية النه من ما من محلول الفوسفات من المجموعة الرابعة جرعة واحدة من 15 ميكرو غرام من الحويصلات الدقيقه المذابة في اسيتم التعامل مع الفئران من المجموعة الخامسة مثل المجموعة الثانية ، ثم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي ، تم اسيتم التعامل مع الفئران من المجموعة الخامسة مثل المجموعة الثانية ، ثم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي ، تو السيتم التعامل مع الفئران من المجموعة الخامسة مثل المجموعة الثانية ، ثم بعد احداث التهاب القولون التقرحي ، تو العلمون ما يولي الموسوعة الثانية والحويصلات الدقيقة كما في المجموعة الرابعة. ثم تم التعامل مع عينات الميامي و فحصها الريبامبيد كما في المجموعه الثانية والمجموعة المناعية.

النتائج: أظهرت المجموعة الثانية تقرح وتسلل الخلايا المتعادله في الجريبات , بالإضافة إلى إحتقان فى الاوعية الدموية. وأظهرت المجموعة الثالثة بطانة طلائية سطحية سليمة جزئيا مع فقدان مناطق أخرى من السطح. أظهرت المجموعة الرابعة ان الغشاء المخاطي معظمه سليم. وأظهرت المجموعة الخامسة ان الغشاء المخاطي سليم مع وجود خلايا الامتصاص السطحيه والخلايا الكأسيه.

استنتاج: كل من الريبامبيد و الحويصلات الدقيقه يحسن التهاب القولون التقرحي ، ولكن مزيجهما أكثر فعالية.