# The Difference between the Therapeutic Effects of Thiamine & ACEI as Therapeutic Agents for the Control of Blood Glucose and ABP in Type II Diabetic Rats, A Comparative Study

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#### **Abstract**

*Background:* Thiamine is a vitamin with a widespread physiological functions and therapeutic effects. Its beneficial effects in different diseases conditions is the subject area of multiple recent researches. Especially in chronic diseases as diabetes and hypertension.

*Aim of the Study:* Test and compare the possible protective effects of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and thiamine in type 2 diabetic rats.

Patients and Methods: A total of 55 male albino rats were used in this study weighing 150-200 grams. The animals were housed in wire mesh cages at room temperature, with normal light dark cycle. They were fed the commercial rat chew diet and had free access to water. These rats were divided into the following groups: Group 1: Control group, Group 2: Type 2 diabetic rats, Group 3: Type 2 diabetic nephropathy rats, Group 4: Lisinopril-treated type 2 diabetic nephropathy rats, Group 5: Thiamine mononitrate-treated type 2 diabetic nephropathy rats. Blood samples were collected for measurement of fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin. Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance was calculated. Systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure were also measured. Nuclear factor kappa B gene expression was estimated.

Results: Treatment with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor reduced fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, nuclear factor kappa B gene expression, systolic blood pressure and diastolic blood pressure. While treatment with thiamine mononitrate reduced fasting blood glucose and systolic blood pressure.

*Conclusion:* The use of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and thiamine in the treatment of type 2 diabetes significantly improved the ABP and the diabetic condition in type 2 diabetes mellitus. ACE inhibitors also inhibits the inflammatory cascade.

**Key Words:** Diabetes – Hypentension – ACE inhibitors – Thiamine – Nuclear factor kappa B.

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#### Introduction

**DIABETES** Mellitus (DM) is one of the most common clinical metabolic disorders and its prevalence is gradually increasing. Its prevalence is growing both in developed and developing countries. Currently more than 5% of adults have this disease, with its prevalence rising from 1% in the youth to 13% in adult older than 60 years [1].

Hyperglycemia, the common feature of all types of diabetes, appears to cause tissue damage by both acute reversible changes in cellular metabolism and cumulative, irreversible changes in macromolecules. The possible biochemical mechanisms are diverse, including the activation of the polyol pathway, and the activation of Protein Kinase C (PKC), formation of glycation end products and increased oxidative stress [2]. Hyperglycemia also leads to increased oxidative stress leading to peroxidation of lipid membranes, proteins and DNA [3].

The formation of Advanced Glycation Endproducts (AGEs) by non-enzymatic binding of glucose to various organic molecules such as proteins, lipids, nucleic acids and other molecules can lead to the alteration of protein structure and function, oxidative stress, and expression of proinflammatory cytokines and growth factors [4].

Oxidative stress and the subsequent generation of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) damage deoxy ribonucleic acid (DNA) and protein, or function as signaling amplifiers to activate cellular stress pathways such as Protein Kinase C (PKC), Mi-

togen-activated Protein Kinase (MAPK), and nuclear factor kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) [5].

Activation of the polyol pathway, with aldose reductase converting excess glucose to sorbitol, and subsequent conversion to fructose by sorbitol dehydrogenase contributes to oxidative stress [6].

Glycosylation of tissue proteins contributes to pathological change in the kidney leading to the development of DN and other microvascular complications. In chronic hyperglycemia, some of the excess glucose combines with free amino acids on circulating or tissue proteins. This non-enzymatic process affects the glomerular basement membrane and other matrix components in the glomerulus and initially leads to formation of reversible early glycosylation end products and, later, irreversible advanced glycosylation end products. These advanced products claimed to be involved in the pathogenesis of DN by altering signal transduction via alteration in the level of some soluble signals, such as cytokines, hormones and free radicals [7].

Diabetic nephropathy is becoming the most common cause of renal failure and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in most countries and carries an increased risk of cardiovascular mortality. It is described as a syndrome characterized by the presence of pathological quantities of urine albumin excretion and diabetic glomerular lesions [8].

ACE inhibitors are a class of drugs thought to make a significant difference for patients with diabetes as a whole. If patients both with and without microalbuminuria are compared together, ACE inhibitors significantly reduce the progression of albumin excretion rate. ACE inhibitors prevent the conversion of angiotensin I to the active compound angiotensin II. They can decrease tissue oxidative stress, and there is an evidence that they lower the formation of AGEs [9].

It is now realized that the ability to block tissue ACE (particularly in the kidney) is more important than the ability to block circulating ACE [10].

Dysregulation of RAAS plays an essential fundamental role in the pathogenesis of various complications of diabetes mellitus especially the diabetic nephropathy. The pathological hallmarks of DN include expansion of mesangial cells, accumulation of extracellular matrix protein, thickening of glomerular and tubular basement membranes, tubulointerstitial fibrosis, glomerulosclerosis and renal endothelial dysfunction [11].

Hyperglycemia is usually associated with increased production of ANG II in glomerular mesangial cells, which leads to accumulation of ROS exacerbating the oxidative stress occurring in diabetes mellitus. And also leading to gradually subsequent elevation of arterial blood pressure, through the production of aldosterone or by increasing the vasoconstrictor tone [12].

Thiamine, or vitamin B 1, named as the "thiovitamine" is a vitamin of the B complex. It is a water-soluble vitamin. Its phosphate derivatives are involved in many cellular processes. The best-characterized form is thiamine diphosphate (ThDP). A recent study revealed allosteric regulation of metabolic enzymes by non-coenzyme forms of thiamine, which may be responsible for the action of thiamine and its derivatives as metabolic regulators [13].

Thiamine acts as a coenzyme for Transketolase (TK) and for the pyruvate dehydrogenase and alpha-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase complexes, enzymes which play a fundamental role in intracellular glucose metabolism. A thiamine/TK activity deficiency has been described in diabetic patients

Thiamine and its derivatives have been demonstrated to prevent the activation of the biochemical pathways (increased flux through the polyol pathway, formation of advanced glycation end-products, activation of protein kinase C, and increased ion flux through the hexosaminebiosynthesis pathway) induced by hyperglycemia in DM and it is suggested that it has a role in the diabetic endothelial vascular diseases (micro and macroangiopathy)

Thiamine reserve was found to be reduced in litters of untreated diabetic rats [15].

Thiamine deficiency appears to impair the normal endocrine function of the pancreas and exacerbate hyperglycemia. Early studies showed that insulin synthesis and secretion were altered in the endocrine pancreatic cells of thiamine-deficient rats [15].

A wide range of proinflammatory molecules and pathways participate in the pathophysiological spectrum of diabetic nephropathy, including proinflammatory cytokines, chemokines and their receptors, adhesion molecules and transcription factors. Kidney cells can synthesize proinflammatory cytokines, and the expression of chemoattractant cytokines and other adhesion molecules is upregulated in kidney cells from patients and animals

with diabetes. These molecules are key mediators of renal injury and other diabetic complications by virtue of their ability to attract the circulating white blood cells (monocytes, neutrophils and lymphocytes) and facilitate transmigration of these blood cells into renal tissue. These infiltrating cells are a source of cytokines and other mediators that can contribute to the development and progression of renal injury, as well as to amplification and perpetuation of other inflammatory reactions [16].

Recent evidence suggests that if there is insulin resistance, the pancreas is forced to increase its insulin secretion, which stresses the  $\beta$  cells, eventually resulting in  $\beta$ -cell exhaustion. This high blood glucose level together with the high levels of saturated fatty acids create an inflammatory medium, resulting in activation of the innate immune system, resulting in activation of the NF-KB, and the release of other inflammatory mediators, including, IL-1  $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$ , promoting systemic insulin resistance and  $\beta$ -cell damage as a result of autoimmune insulitis. Insulin resistance further leads to high glucose levels, along with high serum levels of free fatty acids and IL-1, leading to glucotoxicity, lipotoxicity, and IL-1 toxicity, resulting in apoptotic  $\beta$ -cell death [17].

Angiotensin II has been added to the list of important molecules that activate NF-  $\kappa B$ . Angiotensin II activates NF-  $\kappa B$  in the kidney via Angiotensin II receptor type 1 (AT 1R) and Angiotensin II receptor type 2 (AT2R), and that this peptide participates in the mononuclear cell recruitment in experimental nephritis through NF- $\kappa B$  activation and MCP-1 upregulation, expanding data on ANG II as a proinflammatory mediator [18].

The Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System (RAAS) plays a vital role in regulating the physiological processes of the cardiovascular system. Not only does it function as an endocrine system, but it also serves local paracrine and autocrine functions in tissues and organs. The primary effector molecule of this system, angiotenisn II (ANG II), has emerged as a critical hormone that affects the function of virtually all organs, including heart, kidney, vasculature, and brain, and by both beneficial and pathologic effects. Acute stimulation with ANG II regulates salt/water homeostasis and vasoconstriction, modulating blood pressure, while chronic stimulation promotes hyperplasia and hypertrophy of VSMCs [19].

Given its diverse range of functions and its potency in affecting cardiovascular physiology, it

becomes imperative to understand the characteristics of ANG II receptors. Blockade of RAAS has been shown to be beneficial in patients with hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, chronic systolic heart failure, stroke and diabetic renal disease [20].

Aim of the work:

The aim of this study is to:

- 1- Test and compare the possible protective effects of ACEIs and thiamine in the course of diabetes and its complications in type II diabetic rats.
- 2- Test the role of inflammatory pathway (cascade) in the promotion & progression of complications in type II diabetic rats.

#### **Material and Methods**

This study was conducted in El-Kasr El-Eini Physiology Department's Laboratory.

It lasted 3 months from February 2016 till May 2016.

Experimental animals:

A total of 55 male albino rats were used in this study weighing 150-200 grams.

The animals were housed in wire mesh cages at room temperature, with normal light dark cycle. They were fed the commercial rat chew diet and had free access to water.

These rats were divided into the following groups:

- *Group 1:* Control group (n=10): Consists of 10 normal rats not subjected to any drug.
- *Group 2:* Type 2 diabetic rats (n=10): They were sacrificed after type II diabetes was confirmed.
- Group 3: Diabetic nephropathy DN rats (n=10): Microalbuminuria was established in type II diabetic rats.
- *Group 4:* Lisinopril protected Diabetic nephropathy DN rats (n=10): Diabetic nephropathy rats were treated with oral lisinopril 10mg/kg/day for 1 month [21].
- *Group 5:* Thiamine protected Diabetic nephropathy DN rats (n=10): Diabetic nephropathy rats were treated with high dose oral thiamine mononitrate 70mg/kg/day for 1 month [22].

#### *Induction of type 2 diabetes:*

Beginning on day 0, rats were fed either normal rodent chow (Group 1) or high fat diet (other groups). On day 14, rats on high fat diet were injected with a single low dose of streptozotocin

(HFD + STZ) (STZ, 30mg/kg i.p., in 0.01 M citrate buffer pH 4.3) to induce type 2 diabetes [23]. Consumption of high fat diet leads to insulin resistance and is considered to be a major predisposing factor for type 2 diabetes [24]. Subsequent to STZ treatment, rats had free access to food and water and were continued on their respective diets for the duration of the study.

Characterization of type 2 diabetes and diabetic nephropathy models:

On day 20, in the HFD + STZ groups, type 2 diabetes was confirmed by measuring fasting plasma glucose and insulin levels. Blood sampled from the retro-orbital plexus under diethyl ether anesthesia was used to measure plasma glucose and insulin concentrations. Rats that had high blood glucose level were considered as diabetic, and were used for further study. 10 rats were sacrified and were considered as group 2.

Onset of DN in the remaining rats began subtly after one month of diabetes [25]. It was confirmed by the presence of microalbuminuria. 10 rats were considered DN rats and were categorized as Group 3. Group 4 included 10 rats that were treated with oral lisinopril 10mg/kg/day for 1 month [21]. Group 5 included 10 rats that were treated with with high dose oral thiamine mononitrate 70mg/kg/day for 1 month [22].

Blood samples from Groups 1, 3, 4 and 5 were taken at the end of the study protocol.

#### Methods:

I- Measurement of arterial blood pressure: Blood pressure was measured in conscious rats immediately before obtaining the blood samples. The rats had been trained to the apparatus several times beforemeasurement. Blood pressure in the tail region was measured using an electronice-lectrosphygmomanometer after the rat was prewarmed for 15min for increasing theambient temperature to 37°C and maintaining an adequate circulation in the rat's tail to measure the blood pressure reliably.

The Harvard Rat Tail Blood Pressure Monitor system is an electronic version of the traditional sphygmomanometer cuff method, used to determine human bloodpressure indirectly.

II- Measurment of fasting blood glucose according to (www. amsalliance.com):

## Intended use:

AMS glucose kit utilizes the enzymatic colorimetric method for the quantitative determination of glucose in serum, plasma and urine using the AMS SAT 450 Chemistry System.

- III- Measurement of fasting blood insulin (according to De La Rica and Stevens, [26]: Insulin concentrations were measured in previously frozen and thawed serumsamples by enzyme immunoassay using rat insulin ELISA kits.
- IV- Calculation of homeostasis model assessement insulin resistance index (HOMA-IR): Calculated as the product of fasting insulin (microunits/ml) and fasting glucose (mMol/L) divided by 22.5. Lower index indicates greater insulin sensitivity [27].

Fasting insulin (
$$\text{$\mathbb{I}$}$$
  $\text{Fo}/L$ ) X
Fasting glucose (mmol/L)
HOMA-IR =  $22.5$ 

V- NF-K(3 gene expression semiquantitation (according to Ninfa et al., 2009):

Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR):

- 1- Total RNA was extracted from whole blood using RNeasy purification reagent (Cat No. 74134, Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA).
- 2- Reverse transcription and PCR was conducted using OneStep RT-PCR Kit (Qiagen, USA, catalog number 210212).

## PCR detection of beta-actin:

The presence of RNA in all tissues was assessed by analysis of the "house-keeping" gene b-actin. b-actin primers (forward 5′-TGTTGTCCCT.

GTATGCCTCT-3', reverse 5' – TAATGT-CACGCAC GATTTCC-3') were designed from GenBank (accession no. J00691) and amplified a product of 206bp.

## Gel electrophoresis:

PCR products of (NF- K(3 and beta actin) genes were electrophorized on 2% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide and visualized by ultraviolet transilluminator. Semiquantitation of PCR product was conducted using a gel documentation system (BioDocAnalyze System and Software, Biometra, Germany, Göttingen).

VI- Detection of albumin in urine (for confirmation of diabetic nephropathy): BCG Albumin Assay Kit (MAK124 Sigma Aldrich) was used to assess albumin in urine.

Statistical analysis:

Data were statistically described in terms of mean  $\pm$  Standard Deviation ( $\pm$ SD) and compared using 2-sided student *t*-test for independent samples. All statistical calculations were done using computer program IBM SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Science; IBM Corp, Armonk, NY, USA) release 22 for Microsoft Windows.

The *p*-value, or calculated probability was determined. *p*-values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. While *p*-values less than 0.01 were considered highly significant. *p*-values more than 0.05 were considered insignificant.

#### Results

## I- Descriptive data of the five studied groups:

In control Group 1, the results of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting insulin (  $\blacksquare$ /I) $\blacksquare$ HOMA test, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, systolic blood pressure (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) were respectively  $89.600\pm20.239$  (mg/dl),  $0.461\pm0.056$  (  $\blacksquare$ /I) $\blacksquare$ 0.720 $\pm0.153$ ,  $0.571\pm0.034$ ,  $112.300\pm9.250$  (mmHg) and  $76.800\pm10.830$  (mmHg) (Table 1).

In diabetic rats Group 2, the results of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting insulin ( p/l) HO-MA test, NF-kB gene expression, systolic blood pressure (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure

(mmHg) were respectively  $212.700\pm7.212$  (mg/dl),  $4.190\pm0.870$  ( **L**)  $1.179\pm0.010$ ,  $0.970\pm0.116$ ,  $136.000\pm5.164$  (mmHg) and  $92.000\pm2.582$  (mmHg) (Table 1).

In diabetic nephropathy Group 3, the results of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting insulin ( P/J) HOMA test, NF-kB gene expression, systolic blood pressure (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) were respectively 229.600±9.442 (mg/dl), 5.140±0.677 ( P/J) 1.220±0.148, 1.090±0.263, 149.000±8.433 (mmHg) and 95.500±4.378 (mmHg) (Table 1).

In lisinopril-treated diabetic nephropathy rats Group 4, the results of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting insulin ( ლ/l), HOMA test, NF-κB gene expression, systolic blood pressure (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) were respectively 197.800±10.993 (mg/dl), 3.680±0.634 ( ლ/l), 1.157±0.038, 0.669±0.102, 113.400±8.316 (mmHg) and 82.500±10.906 (mmHg) (Table 1).

In thiamine-treated diabetic nephropathy rats Group 4, the results of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting insulin ( p/l), HOMA test, NF-KB gene expression, systolic blood pressure (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure (mmHg) were respectively 207.400±5.719 (mg/dl), 4.940±0.566 (p/l), 185±0.073, 0.992±0.032, 136.000±11.832 (mmHg) and 93.500±3.375 (mmHg) (Table 1).

Table (1): Mean and SD of the parameters measured in the 5 studied groups.

•		_	-			
	Blood Glucose mg/dl	Blood Insulin	HOMA- IR	NF-κB gene expression	SBP mmHg	DBP mmHg
Group 1 (control):						
Mean	89.600	.461	.720	.571	112.300	76.800
$\pm SD$	20.239	.056	.153	.034	9.250	10.830
Group 2 (diabetes):						
Mean	212.700	4.190	1.179	.970	136.000	92.000
$\pm SD$	7.212	.870	.010	.116	5.164	2.582
Group 3 (diabetes nephropathy ''DN''):						
Mean	229.600	5.140	1.220	1.090	149.000	95.500
$\pm SD$	9.442	.677	.148	.263	8.433	4.378
Group 4 (DN treated with ACEI):						
Mean	197.800	3.680	1.157	.669	113.400	82.500
$\pm SD$	10.993	.634	0.038	.102	8.316	10.906
Group 5 (DN treated with thiamine):						
Mean	207.400	4.940	1.185	.992	136.000	93.500
±SD	5.719	.566	.073	.032	11.832	3.375

II- Comparative data of the five studied groups:

Table (2): Effect of induction of type II diabetes on all studied parameters.

	Gro	oup 1	Gro	<i>p</i> -		
	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	value	
Blood glucose (mg/dl)	89.6	20.239	212.7	7.212	0.000*	
Blood insulin ( $\alpha g/l$ )	0.461	0.056	4.19	0.87	0.000*	
HOMA-IR	0.72	0.153	1.179	0.01	0.000*	
NF-κB gene expression	0.571	0.034	0.97	0.116	0.000*	
SBP (mmHg)	112.3	9.25	136	5.164	0.000*	
DBP (mmHg)	76.8	10.83	92	2.582	0.000*	

<sup>\*:</sup> p-values significant change comparing Group 2 to Group 1.

Table (2) shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 1 and Group 2 as regard fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP (p<0.01). Group 2 had a higher fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP.

Table (3) shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 1 and Group 3 as regard fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP (p<0.01). Group 3 had a higher blood urea, urinaryalbumin excretion, blood albumin creatinine ratio, fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP than Group 1.

Table (3): Effect of ephropathy (DN) on all studied parameters.

	Group 1		Gro	up 2	Gro	up 3	р-	
	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	value	
Blood glucose (mg/dl) Blood insulin (α g/l) HOMA-IR NF-κB gene expression SBP (mmHg) DBP (mmHg)	89.6 0.461 0.72 0.571 112.3 76.8	20.239 0.056 0.153 0.034 9.25 10.83	212.7 4.19 1.179 0.97 136 92	7.212 0.87 0.01 0.116 5.164 2.582	229.6 5.14 1.22 1.09 149 95.5	9.442 0.677 0.148 0.263 8.433 4.378	0.000*, 0.000• 0.000*, 0.014• 0.000*, 0.394 0.000*, 0.203 0.000*, 0.001• 0.000*, 0.043•	

<sup>\*:</sup> p-values significant change comparing Group 3 to Group 1.

The table also shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 2 and Group 3 as regard, fasting blood glucose and SBP (p<0.01). While there is a statistically significant difference between Group 2 and Group 3 as

regard fasting blood insulin and DBP (p<0.05). Group 3 had a higherfasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, SBP and DBP, than Group 2. Group 3 had a statistically insignificant higher HOMA-IR and NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression than Group 2.

Table (4): Effect of lisinopril treatment on DN rats for 1 month on all studied parameters.

	Group 1		Group 2		Group 3		Group 4		<i>p</i> -	
	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	value	
Blood glucose (mg/dl)	89.6	20.239	212.7	7.212	229.6	9.442	197.8	10.993	0.000*, 0.002•, 0.000æ	
Blood insulin (∝ g/l) HOMA-IR	0.461 0.72	0.056 0.153	4.19 1.179	0.87 0.01	5.14 1.22	0.677 0.148	3.68 1.157	0.634 0.038	0.000*, 0.151, 0.000æ 0.000*, 0.094, 0.209	
NF-κB gene expression SBP (mmHg)	0.571 112.3	0.034 9.25	0.97 136	0.116 5.164	1.09 149	0.263 8.433	0.669 113.4	0.102 8.316	0.010*, 0.000•, 0.000æ 0.783, 0.000•, 0.000æ	
DBP (mmHg)	76.8	10.83	92	2.582	95.5	4.378	82.5	10.906	0.256, 0.015•, 0.003æ	

 $<sup>\</sup>ensuremath{^*}$  : p -values significant change comparing Group 4 to Group 1.

κB gene expression, than Group 1. Group 4 had a statistically insignificant higher blood urea, SBP and DBP than Group 1.

Table (4) shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 1 and Group 4 as regard fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin and HOMA-IR (p<0.01). While there is a statistically significant difference between Group 1 and Group 4 as regard NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression (p<0.05). Group 4 had a higherfasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR and NF-

The table also shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 2 and Group 4 as regard fasting blood glucose, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression and SPB (p<0.01). While

x: p-values significant change comparing Group 4 to Group 3.

<sup>•:</sup> p-values significant change comparing Group 3 to Group 2.

<sup>• :</sup> *p*-values significant change comparing Group 4 to Group 2.

there is a statistically significant difference between Group 2 and Group 4 as regard DBP (p<0.05). Group 4 had a higher fasting blood glucose, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SPB and DBP, than Group 2. Group 4 had a statistically insignificant lowerfasting blood insulin and HOMA-IR than Group 2.

The table also shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group

3 and Group 4 as regard fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP (p<0.01). Group 4 had a higher blood albumin creatinine ratio, and had a lower fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP, than Group 3. Group 4 had a statistically insignificant lower HOMA-IR than Group 3.

Table (5): Effect of thiamine mononitrate treatment on DN rats for 1 month on all studied parameters.

	Gro	oup 1	Gro	up 2	Gro	up 3	Gro	oup 4	Group 5		р-
	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	Mean	±SD	value
Blood glucose (mg/dl)	89.6	20.239	212.7	7.212	229.6	9.442	197.8	10.993	207.4	5.719	0.000*, 0.085, 0.000æ , 0.025
Blood insulin ( $\alpha g/l$ )	0.461	0.056	4.19	0.87	5.14	0.677	3.68	0.634	4.94	0.566	0.000*, 0.035•, 0.483, 0.000
HOMA-IR	0.72	0.153	1.179	0.01	1.22	0.148	1.157	0.038	1.185	0.073	0.000*, 0.800, 0.511, 0.296
NF-κB gene expression	0.571	0.034	0.97	0.116	1.09	0.263	0.669	0.102	0.992	0.032	0.000*, 0.570, 0.257, 0.000
SBP (mmHg)	112.3	9.25	136	5.164	149	8.433	113.4	8.316	136	11.832	0.000*, 1.000, 0.011æ, 0.000
DBP (mmHg)	76.8	10.83	92	2.582	95.5	4.378	82.5	10.906	93.5	3.375	0.000*, 0.279, 0.268, 0.007

<sup>\*:</sup> p-values significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 1.

æ: p-values significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 3. □: p-values significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4.

Table (5) shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 1 and Group 5 as regard fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP (p<0.01). Group 5 had a higher fasting-blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP, than Group 1.

The table also shows that there is a statistically significant difference between Group 2 and Group 5 as regard fasting blood insulin (p<0.05). Group 5 had a higherfasting blood insulin than Group 2. Group 5 had a statistically insignificant higher HOMA-IR, NF-  $\kappa$ B gene expression and DBP, and insignificant lower fasting blood glucose, than Group 2.

The table also shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 3 and Group 5 as regard fasting blood glucose (p<0.01). While there is a statistically significant difference between Group 3 and Group 5 as regard SBP (p<0.05). Group 5 had a lowerfasting blood glucose and SBP, than Group 3.

Group 5 had a statistically insignificant lower fasting blood insulin, HOMA-IR, NF-  $\kappa B$  gene expression and DBP than Group 3.

The table also shows that there is a highly statistically significant difference between Group 4 and Group 5 as regard fasting blood insulin, NF-

 $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP (p<0.01). While there is a statistically significant difference between Group 4 and Group 5 as regard fasting blood glucose (p<0.05). Group 5 had a higherfasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin, NF- $\kappa$ B gene expression, SBP and DBP, than Group 4. Group 5 had a statistically insignificant higherHOMA-IR than Group 4.

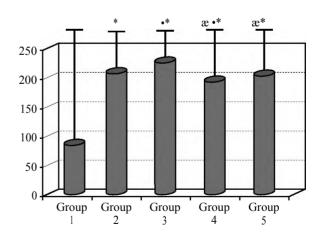


Fig. (1): Mean blood glucose among the studied groups.

Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

- \* : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (*p*<0.05).
- : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4 and 3 to Group 2 (p<0.05).</li>
- æ: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5 and 4 to Group 3 (*p*<0.05).
- $\square$ : Statistically significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4 (p< 0.05).

<sup>•</sup> p-values significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 2.

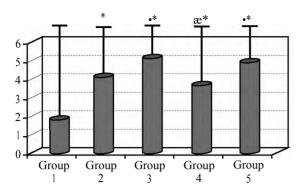


Fig. (2): Mean blood insulin among the studied groups.

Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

- \* : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (*p*<0.05).
- : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4 and 3 to Group 2 (p<0.05).</li>
- a: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5 and 4 to Group 3 (p<0.05).</li>
- $\square$ : Statistically significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4 (p<0.05).

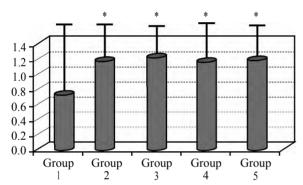


Fig. (3): Mean HOMA-IR among the studied groups.

Values are represented as mean ± SD.

\*: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (p<0.05).

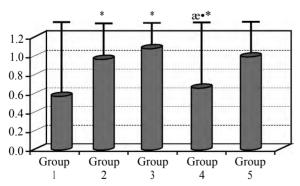


Fig. (4): Mean NF-κB gene expression among the studied groups

Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

- \* : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (p<0.05).
- : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4 and 3 to Group 2 (p<0.05).</li>
- æ: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5 and 4 to Group 3 (*p*<0.05).
- $\square$ : Statistically significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4 (p<0.05).

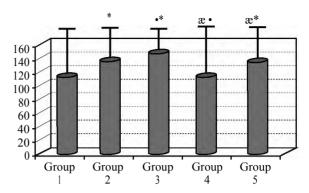


Fig. (5): Mean systolic blood pressure among the studied groups.

Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

- \* : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (*p*<0.05).
- : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4 and 3 to Group 2 (p<0.05).</li>
- æ: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5 and 4 to Group 3 (*p*<0.05).
- □: Statistically significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4 (p<0.05).

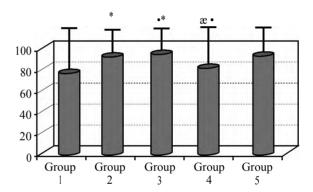


Fig. (6): Mean diastolic blood pressure among the studied groups.

Values are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

- \* : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4, 3 and 2 to Group 1 (p<0.05).</p>
- : Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5, 4 and 3 to Group 2 (p<0.05).</li>
- æ: Statistically significant change comparing Groups 5 and 4 to Group 3 (*p*<0.05).
- $\Box$ : Statistically significant change comparing Group 5 to Group 4 (p<0.05).

## Discussion

The incidence of type 2 DM is increasing world-wide at an explosive rate. The need for research into the pathogenesis, prevention and treatment of diabetes is highlighted by the profound financial, social and personal impact of this devastating disease. DM leads to high nephrogenic morbidity and mortality as a result of functional and morphological damage in diabetic kidneys. The aim of our study is to test and compare the possible therapeutic protective effects of ACE is and thiamine in the course of diabetic complications and nephropathy in type II diabetic rats. And to determine the pos-

sible role and involvement of the inflammatory pathways in these effects. In this thesis, type II diabetes and insulin resistance were induced by high fat diet for 2 weeks followed by STZ administration. This was evident by the presence of significant increase in the level of fasting blood glucose (mg/dl), fasting plasma insulin ( p/L) and homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) in Group 2 (type II diabetic rats). STZ causes hyperglycemia by specifically inducing DNA strand breaks in pancreatic islet-cells and stimulates nuclear poly (ADP-ribose) synthetase, thus depleting intracellular Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+) and Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADP+) levels. Reduction of NAD+ and NADP+ inhibits proinsulin synthesis, leading to a diabetic state [28].

Induction of type II diabetes produced a statistically significant increase in SBP and DBP relative to the control group. This result was in agreement with (Zhou et al., 2014) who stated that insulin resistance seems to play a fundamental role in the pathogenesis of hypertension in patients with type 2 diabetes. Moreover, it has been suggested genetic predisposition as a possible mechanism in the pathogenesis [29].

Insulin resistance/hyperinsulinemia is incriminated in the development of hypertension through abnormalities in insulin signalling, associated cardiovascular and metabolic derangements and vascular stiffness. These would include enhanced sympathetic and RAAS activity with subsequent sodium retention and volume expansion, progressive renal disease, cardiac hyperactivity and left ventricular hypertrophy, dyslipidemia, chronic hyperglycemia and increased oxidative stress. In addition, there is endothelial cell dysfunction, including decrease in NO bioavailability, enhanced TXA2 activity, suppressed ANP activity, and activation of epithelial sodium channels. Also there is VSMC dysfucntion including VSMC proliferation and migration, and impaired vascular dilatation. Besides, abnormalities also include maladaptive immune responses where there is increased production of IL-6, IL-8, MCP-1 and TNF- α [30].

Type II diabetic rats showed a statistically significant increase in the level of fasting blood glucose, fasting plasma blood insulin and HOMA-IR. Insulin resistance results from impaired insulin signaling cascade at the level of insulin receptor substrate 1 (IRS-1) beside diminished insulin binding and other multiple post-receptor intracellular abnormalities, including impaired glucose transport, glucose phosphorylation, and reduced glucose

utilization and oxidation and glycogen synthesis (the impairment in glycogen synthase activation is likely due to a defect in the ability of insulin molecule to phosphorylate IRS-1, causing a reduced association of the p85 subunit of PI 3-kinase with IRS-1 and decreased activation of the enzyme PI3K). Abnormalities of fatty acid metabolism also plays a pivotal role in the pathogenesis of insulin resistance in multiple tissues including skeletal muscles where fatty acid metabolites activate a serine kinase cascade and impair IRS-1 phosphorylation by the insulin receptor, and this leads to defects in insulin signaling and promotes loss of insulin sensitivity in insulin resistant individuals [31].

In addition, as beta-cells in the pancreas work to produce more and more insulin, metabolic stress signals recruit monocytes to clear dying  $\beta$ -cells. These recruited monocytes differentiate into TNF-  $\alpha$ , IL-6 and IL-1 producing macrophages that promote further  $\beta$ -cell dysfunction and death. TNF-  $\alpha$  disrupts insulin signaling and sensitivity [32].

Other results in rats strongly suggest that ANG II-induced insulin resistance cannot be attributed to an impairment of the early insulin signaling steps and that oxidative stress, possibly through impaired some insulin signaling steps located downstream from PI 3-kinase activation, is possibly involved in ANG II-induced insulin resistance [33].

Induction of type II diabetes also lead to a significant increase in NF- kB gene expression. Type II diabetes is associated with low-grade systemic inflammation, which is associated with increased levels of multiple circulating proinflammatory mediators, e.g. TNF-  $\alpha$  and gut-derived Lipopolysaccharide (LPS), may play a role in the pathogenesis of insulin resistance, which is the hallmark of type 2 diabetes. The binding of TNFα, LPS or other pro-inflammatory ligands to their receptors, activates other intracellular signaling pathways that facilitate the dissociation of nuclear factor NF-κB from an inhibitor of NF-κB (IκB) proteins. NF-kB subsequently enhancing the transcription of a vast array of genes encoding multiple inflammatory mediators, e.g. TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 [34].

Putative stimuli for the NF- kB pathways, such as elevated FFAs, AGEs, ROS and endoplasmatic reticulum stress, are frequently present in diabetic patients. After one month, type II diabetic rats developed DN (Group 3). DN rats showed a statistically significant increase in SBP and DBP relative to both control and diabetic groups. It is now evident that the major causes of hypertension in

DN include volume expansion owing to increased renal sodium reabsorption and peripheral vasoconstriction owing to dysregulation of factors that regulate peripheral vascular resistance. Activation of the RAAS, upregulation of endothelin1, upregulation of reactive oxygen species molecules, and NO conspire to produce hypertension in this setting [35].

Type II DN rats also showed a statistically significant increase in fasting blood glucose, fasting blood insulin relative to both control and diabetic groups. They showed a significant increase regarding HOMA-IR relative to the control group, but not to the diabetic group. It has been demonstrated that the RAAS regulates skeletal muscle insulin sensitivity through different possible mechanisms. The overactivation of the ACE ANG II/AT1R axis has been associated with the development of insulin resistance, whereas the stimulation of the ACE2/Ang 1-7/MasR (Mas receptor) axis was found to improve insulin sensitivity [36].

Clinical and pharmacological studies have recently shown that ANG II is a critical promoter of insulin resistance. ANG II exerts its actions on insulin-sensitive tissues such as liver, muscle and adipose tissue where it has inhibitory effects on the Insulin Receptor (IR), IRS proteins and the downstream effectors PI3K, protein kinase B and glucose transporter 4 (GLUT-4). The molecular mechanisms involved have not been completely identified, but the role of serine/threonine phosphorylation of the IR and IRS-1 proteins in desensitization of insulin action has been well established, which occurs by by Janus kinase 2 signalling mechanisms associated with AT1 R stimulation, which attenuates insulin-induced activation of PI3K found to be associated with IRS-1, leading to decreased insulin sensitivity [37].

Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor therapy not only inhibits ANG II production, increases the production of the vasodilator factors. ACE inhibitors increase the plasma levels of bradykinin by inhibiting its degradation in rats and in humans. Bradykinin, via its B2 receptors, stimulates different signaling molecules as NO, cGMP, prostaglandin E2, and prostacyclin [37]. Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor is also important in improving arterial compliance through cytoprotective effects affecting the vascular endothelium [38].

Diz et al., [39] proposed that the RAAS facilitates the sympathetic nervous system and that ACE inhibition and angiotensin receptor blockade are anti-adrenergic Lisinopril-treated DN rats showed

a statistically significant decrease in fasting blood glucose compared to both type II diabetic rats group and DN rats group. While they showed a statistically significant decrease in fasting blood insulin compared the DN group, but not to type II diabetic group. DN rats treated with lisinopril did not show a significant change regarding HOMA-IR compared to both diabetic and DN groups. Anyway, values of these parameters in DN rats did not return to that in the control group. Number of studies have also illustrated that drugs that interfere with the renin-angiotensin system may also decrease the levels of advanced glycation endproducts (AGEs) [40].

Findings of previous studies reported that the decrease in glucose levels with ACEI was related to the increase in the insulin pathway and this was supported by the decrease in glucose levels being associated with a significant decrease in insulin levels [41].

Further studies reported that chronic administration of ACE inhibitors to insulin-resistant rodents can increase protein expression of GLUT-4 in skeletal muscle and myocardium. Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors increase GLUT-4 concentration/translocation and activate hexokinase, one of the major enzymes of glucose pathway. These changes are probably secondary to activation of the PI3-kinase signaling pathway by enhancing tyrosine phosphorylation of IRS-1 and improvement of PI3-kinase-IRS-1 complexing Csibi et al., [42]. Lisinopril-treated DN rats also showed a significant decrease in NF-kB gene expression compared to both type II diabetic rats and DN rats. However, values remained higher than that in the control group. There is a growing evidence that AGE may play an important role in the development of DN. One of the most commonly formed AGE is N-Carboxy-Methyl-Lysine (CML). CML-adducts are a major class of AGE that bind to RAGE. Following ligation of the extracellular region, transmembrane downstream signaling by RAGE is now thought to be transduced by the single hydrophobic transmembrane-spanning domain and its short cytosolic tail. This intracellular portion of the molecule is essential for RAGE-triggered signaling and activates NF-kB coupled signaling. Forbes and coworkers found that there was a selective decrease of CML AGE in response to treatment with ACE inhibitors [43].

It has been shown that ACEI can improve DN by inhibiting the RAAS system to reduce urinary MCP-1 level. The possible underlying mechanism is that ANG II activates NF-kB pathway to regulate

transcription and synthesis of MCP-1 and RANTES [44].

This work also aims to study and evaluate the impact of thiamine in the course of DM. Diabetic nephropathy rats treated with thiamine mononitrate for one month (Group 5) showed no change in SBP compared to the diabetic group rats. However, SBP decreased significantly in relation to DN rats, and at the same time was significantly higher in relation to DN rats treated with lisinopril for one month. DBP did not change significantly compared to both the diabetic and DN rats. While it was significantly high compared to DN rats treated with lisinopril for one month. Both SBP and DBP did not reach their control values. A recent study demonstrated that Benfotiamine (a synthetic S-acyl derivative of thiamine) reduces oxidative stress and activates endothelial nitric oxide synthase to enhance the generation and bioavailability of NO and subsequently improves the integrity of the vascular endothelium to prevent sodium arsenite-induced experimental Vascular Endothelial Dysfunction (VED) [45].

The mechanism by which thiamine improves Endothelium-Dependent Vasodilatation (EDV) is not due to a glucose-lowering effect as thiamine had no effect on EDV under normoglycemic conditions. Routine administration of thiamine might improve endothelial function and therefore slow the development and progression of atherosclerosis, especially in patients suffering from impaired glucose tolerance and non-insulin dependent DM who are prone to develop accelerated atherosclerosis [46].

Thiamine administration can prevent the formation of harmful by-products of glucose metabolism, and can reduce the oxidative stress and improve endothelial function. The potential benefit of long-term replacement in those with diabetes is not yet known, but may reduce cardiovascular risk and angiopathic complications [47].

In diabetic nephropathy rats treated with thiamine mononitrate for one month, fasting blood glucose was significantly low compared to DN rats, and was significantly high compared to lisinopril-treated rats for one month. Fasting blood glucose levels did not show a significant change compared to type II diabetic rats. Treatment with thiamine mononitrate showed insignificant decrease in fasting blood insulin compared to DN rats. However, fasting blood insulin was significantly high compared to both type II diabetic rats and lisinopril-treated rats. Both blood glucose and

insulin did not return to their control values in thiamine-treated rats. HOMA-IR did not return to its control value and changed insignificantly compared to diabetic rats, DN rats and thiamine-treated rats. Our results regarding fasting blood glucose and fasting blood insulin are compatible with those that announce that thiamine may modulate diabetic complications by controlling glycemic status in diabetic patients [46].

Additionally, deficiency of thiamine was observed to be associated with dysfunction of [3-cells and impaired glucose tolerance [48].

Thiamine deficiency leads to a marked impairment in insulin synthesis and secretion [49].

Besides, published data suggest that thiamine metabolism in diabetes is deficient (Pacal et al., 2014). Thereby insulin deficiency may exacerbate thiamine deficiency and vice versa. Many observational studies and clinical trials have linked several vitamins with the pathological process of diabetes; including thiamine [50].

Administration of thiamine or a derivative can influence carbohydrate metabolism by reducing metabolism through the alternate pathways of metabolism and improving metabolism via the pentose phosphate pathway. This has been demonstrated in diabetic animal models where treatment with thiamine reduced fasting glucose and HbA1 c levels [51].

Combining the use of thiamine with ACEI as a potential effective treatment in diabetic patients should be taken in consideration, and can make us avoid the possible side effects and disadvantages of the prolonged use of ACEI where there are studies that showed that treatment with ACEIs may be associated with so-called "angiotensin escape," characterized by the return of plasma ANG II concentration to pretreatment levels (although the beneficial effects on blood pressure usually persist). It is often assumed that this rebound generation of ANG II occurs through the action of the serine proteases such as cathepsin G and chymase (chymostatin-sensitive angiotensin II-generating enzyme) [52].

## Conclusion:

From the previously obtained results data in this study showed that there was a significant improvement in both groups exposed to thiamine and ACE inhibitors.

The use of thiamine in type 2 DM significantly lowered the blood glucose level, increased insulin

sensitivity and lowered the arterial blood pressure may be through its action in preventing the activation of the biochemical pathways (increased flux through the polyol pathway, formation of advanced glycation end products, activation of PKC, and increased flux through the HBP) induced by hyperglycemia in DM. However, its protective effects were less than those offered by the ACE inhibitors. So thiamine maybe used as an adjunctive treatment in type 2 diabetes mellitus. However its effects if used solely as a therapeutic agent to delay the complications is still in doubt and needs further investigations.

## Conflict of interest:

The authors of this study declares that they have no conflict of interests regarding this study.

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## الفرق بين التآثيرات العلاجية للثيامين وعقار مثبطات إنزيم الآنجيوتينسين كعوامل علاجية للتحكم في مستوى جلوكوز الدم ومستوى ضغط الدم في الجرذان المصابة بداء السكري من النوع الثاني، دراسة مقارنة

الثيامين هو فيتامين له وظائف فسيولوجية واسعة وآثار علاجية متعددة. آثاره المفيدة في حالات الآمراض المختلفة هي مجال البحث في العديد من الآبحاث الحديثة. خاصة في الآمراض المزمنة.

الهدف: إختبار ومقارنة التأثيرات العلاجية المحتملة للعقار المثبط للإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين والثيامين في الفئران المصابة بداء السكرى من النوع الثاني.

الطريقة: تم إستخدام ما مجموعة ٥٥ من ذكور الجرذان البيضاء في هذه الدراسة وكانت تزن ١٥٠-٢٠٠ غرام عند بداية الدراسة. تم إيواء الحيوانات في آقفاص سلكية في درجة حرارة الغرفة. تم تقسيم هذه الجرذان إلى المجموعات التالية: المجموعة ١: المجموعة الضابطة، المجموعة ٢: الجرذان المصابة بالسكرى من النوع الثاني، المجموعة ٣: الفئران المصابة بمرض السكرى من النوع الثاني حتى الوصول المضاعفات خاصة بالكلى، المجموعة ٤: الفئران المصابة بمرض السكرى من النوع الثاني الذي تمت معالجته بواسطة العقار المثبط للإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين، المجموعة ٥: الفئران المصابة بمرض السكرى من النوع الثاني الذي تمت معالجته بواسطة آحادي نترات الثيامين. تم حساب تقييم نموذج الآستتباب لمقاومة الآنسولين. كما تم قياس ضغط الدم الإنقباضي وضغط الدم الإنبساطي. تم تقدير الجيني لعامل الكابا ب كمعامل ومؤشر لدرجة الإلتهاب.

النتائج: العلاج بإستخدام مثبط الإنزيم المحول للاتجيوتنسين آدى إلى خفض الجلوكوز في الدم، وآيضا مستوى الانسولين في الدم، والعامل النووى كابا B كمؤشر عن إنخفاض درجة تفاعلات الإلتهابات المزمنة المصاحبة للمرض، مع تحسن ضغط الدم الإنقباضي وضغط الدم الإنبساطي. في حين أن العلاج مع ثيامين آحادى النترات تقلل من السكر في الدم الصيام وضغط الدم الإنقباضي بدرجة مؤثرة ولكن بتأثير آقل من مثبط الإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين.

الخلاصة: إن إستخدام مثبط الإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين والثيامين في علاج داء السكرى من النوع الثاني قد حسن بشكل كبير ضغط الدم وحالة مرض السكرى في النوع الثاني من داء السكرى، مثبط الإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين آيضا يعمل كمانع ومضاد للإلتهابات بدرجة آكبر من الثيامين. يصلح الثيامين كعامل مساعد وقد ينصح بإضافته للبرامج العلاجية كعامل مساعد للعقارات المثبطة للإنزيم المحول للأنجيوتنسين.