Effect of Spironolactone on Doxorubicin Induced Cardiomyopathy in Adult Male Albino Rat: Histological, Pharmacological and Biochemical Study

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Abstract

Background: Doxorubicin, an anthracycline drug, is an effective chemotherapeutic agent for treatment of solid tumors and hematological malignancies. However, its clinical use is limited by cardiotoxicity, such as irreversible degenerative cardiomyopathy, electrocardiographic changes, and congestive heart failure. The studies have been proved that spironolactone can ameleorate cardiac fibrosis. This drug is already indicated in treatment of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity to prevent further deterioration.

Aim of Study: Is to elucidate protective and therapeutic effect of spironolactone on doxorubicin induced cardiomyopathy.

Material and Methods: Fifty adult male albino rats weighing 180-220g were used in this study. The rats were divided into five groups 10 rats each: Group I (Normal control): Rats received single injection of saline solution 0.9% intraperitoneally once daily for 14 days. Group II (Doxorubicin adminstraion group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days. Group III (Doxorubicin and spironolactone pre-administration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days and pretreated with spironolactone for seven days before doxorubicin administration Group IV (Doxorubicin and spironolactone co-administration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily and co-treated with spironolactone for 14 days Group V (Doxorubicin and spironolactone Post-administration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days and followed by spironolactone for 7 days. The dose of spironolactone was 40mg/kg given by oral gavage.

Results: Doxorubicin injection exerted various histological and laboratory alterations such as myocardial fibrosis, ballooned mitochondria and elevated cardiac enzymes. Spironol-

Correspondence to: Dr. Marwa O. Abdl El All, The Department of Histology, Faculty of Medicine, Fayoum University actone could improve all histological and functional deterioration exerted by doxorubicin injection especially when given before doxorubicin administration.

Conclusion: It could be concluded that Spironolactone could prevent the adverse histological and functional alterations induced by intraperitoneal injection of doxorubicin in the myocardium of adult male albino rat.

Key Words: Doxorubicin – Spironolactone – Rat – Myocardium.

Introduction

CANCER is the second leading cause of death after cardiovascular diseases over the world. In recent years, the survival rate of patients suffering from oncological diseases has markedly increased due to developments in modern oncotherapy. However, the cardiovascular side effects of radiotherapy and chemotherapy have limited the success of oncotherapeutic regimens. Despite intensive ongoing research efforts, chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity remains an unresolved clinical problem, that may exert cardiomyopathy with consequent heart failure. Nowadays, the use of classic cytotoxic agents such as anthracyclines has been re-evaluated due to the evolving role of targeted and immunooncology drugs, however, they still have a cardinal role in the treatment of different tumours [1].

Doxorubicin, an anthracycline drug, is an effective chemotherapeutic agent for treatment of solid tumors and hematological malignancies. However, its clinical use is limited by cardiotoxicity, such as irreversible degenerative cardiomyopathy, electrocardiographic changes, and congestive heart failure [2].

Spironolactone an aldosterone antagonist the studies have been proved that spironolactone can ameleorate cardiac fibrosis. This drug is already indicated in treatment of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity to prevent further deterioration and to protect both myocardial systolic and diastolic functions in the patients [3,4].

Subjects and Methods

Chemicals: [2]:

- 1- Doxorubicin: Doxorubicin (Adriamycin): Rats were injected intraperitoneally with doxorubicin in normal saline at a dose of 10mg/kg. Adriamycin was purchased from Phrmcia, Egypt.
- 2- Spironolactone (Aldactone): The dose of spironolactone was 40mg/kg that was dissolved in normal saline given by oral gavage. Aldactone (100mg tablets) was purchased from Pfizer, US.

Animals:

Fifty adult male albino rats weighing 180-220g were used in this study. They were obtained from the animal house, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. During 2019 the rats were housed in separate cages and maintained under standard laboratory and environmental conditions with standard rat chow. The rats were divided into five groups 10 rats each:

Group I (Normal control): Rats received single injection of saline solution 0.9% intraperitoneally once daily for 14 days.

Group II (Doxorubicin adminstraion group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days.

Group III (Doxorubicin and spironolactone preadministration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days and pretreated with spironolactone orally at a dose of 40mg/kg once daily for seven days before doxorubicin administration.

Group IV (Doxorubicin and spironolactone co- administration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily and co-treated with spironolactone orally at a dose of 40mg/kg once daily for 14 days.

Group V (Doxorubicin and spironolactone Post-administration group): Rats were injected once with doxorubicin intaperitoneally at a dose of 10mg/kg once daily for 14 days and followed by spironolactone orally at a dose of 40mg/kg once daily for 7 days.

Methods: *The heart was excised and processed for the following studies:*

1- Light microscopic study using hematoxylin and eosin and Masson trichrome stains: Methods of light microscopy [5]:

A- Haematoxylin and eosin stain:

The cardiac tissues were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde. The histological sections were deparaffinized in xylene, rehydrated through a graded series of ethanol, and washed in running water. The sections were then immersed in Harris' hematoxylin for two minutes, washed in running water (five minutes), rinsed in distilled water (one minute), stained in an aqueous solution of eosin (five minutes), and dehydrated in ascending concentrations of ethanol. Next, the sections were cleared in xylene (three successive changes, one minute each) and mounted under a cover-slip.

B- Masson's trichrome staining:

The histological sections were deparaffinized, rehydrated, washed in running water (two minutes), immersed in 5% iron alum (ten minutes) and Regaud's hematoxylin (three minutes), and rinsed in distilled water, 95% alcohol, and picric alcohol. Then, the sections were washed again in running water (ten minutes), rapidly immersed in xylidine ponceau aqueous solution (three minutes), distilled water and 1% glacial acetic acid, and 1% phosphomolybdic acid (three minutes). Next, they were rinsed again in distilled water, immersed in aniline blue for 2-5 minutes, dehydrated, cleared, and mounted under a cover-slip.

Electron microscopic examination: [6]:

Small cylinders (4mm long x x1mm x1mm) of tissue were prepared from each heart section. These cardiac tissue samples were fixed by immersion in vials which contained 1mL of mixed solution glutaraldehyde 1.25% and paraformaldehyde 1% in a phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) buffer solution, at 4°C for 48h. Samples were washed with PBS 0.14M (pH=7.4) for 45min. This process was repeated three times. Subsequent steps were carried out by the Serveis Cientifico-Tècnics (SCT) of the Universitat de Barcelona. In the SCT, samples were subjected to a post-fixation process in osmium tetraoxide (OsO4) 1% in PBS for 1h. Samples were then dehydrated in acetone. They were left in different solutions with ascending acetone concentrations for 10min. Dehydrated samples were mounted in Spurr's epoxide resin blocks. The resin blocks were cut and semithin sections (1.5µm) were processed. These sections were then observed with an optic microscope at 40x to choose the regions of interest for processing and analysing using TEM. The chosen regions were cut and put into square and eyelet grids. They were contrasted so that they could be studied with TEM.

- 2- mRNA analysis: Real time polymerase chain reaction analysis of:
- a- Tumour necrotic factor alpha (TNF alpha). b-Interleukin 1-beta. (IL-1b): [7,8]:

Real-Time Quantitative PCR Analysis: The mRNA concentrations of TNF- α , IL1-b and β -actin in the rat heart specimens were quantified by quantitative real-time PCR. β -actin was used as a housekeeping gene to normalize the gene expression data. The primer information for all the genes is:

- Sequences for real-time PCR primers.
- β-Actin: ACCGCAAATGCTTCTAAACC ATAAAGCCATGCCAATCTCG
- TNF-α: TGTGTATGTGCAGCAACCCGTAGT-CATTGCAATTTGGACAGAAGT
- IL-1β: TCTTCTACCGCCTGGACACG TAGGT-GGCGATGTTGACCTG

Total RNA was obtained using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol, and the RNA integrity was assessed via 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. The RNA concentrations and purity were determined from OD260/280 readings (ratio >1.8) using a NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Nano-Drop Technologies, Wilmington, DE) and adjusted to the same concentration. The RNA was reverse transcribed to cDNA by using a PrimeScript RT reagent kit (Takara, Shiga, Japan). Real-time quantitative PCR was carried out in a 7500 Real-Time PCR system (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) using a SYBR Green PCR kit (Roche Diagnostics, Laval, Quebec, Canada). All samples were analyzed in triplicate, and the results were expressed as $2-\Delta\Delta CT$. Each cycle consisted of denaturation at 95°C for 10 s, annealing at 95°C for 5s, and extension at 60°C for 34 s. Each sample was measured in triplicate, and the average values were obtained.

c- Endothelial nitric oxide (e NO): [9]: Total RNA was extracted from 10 mg of rat heart tissue with the RNX-Plus solution kit (Cinagen Co., Tehran, Iran). cDNA synthesis was performed using Thermo Scientific RevertAid Reverse Transcriptase in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions. Primers were designed using primer3 and Gene Runner. Amplifications were performed in a Rotor Gene 6000 real-time PCR machine (Corbett, Life science, Sydney, Australia). Target genes were normalized with β-actin as reference. Fold changes

in mRNA expression for: eNOS, genes were calculated by the 2 $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method. Primer sequences employed are: eNO Forward: TGACCCTCACCGATACAACA, Reverse: CGGGTGTCTAGATCCATGC.; β -actin: Forward: GCGTCCACCCGCGAGTACAAC Reverse: CGACGACGAGCGAGCGATACAAC

- 3- Biochemical analysis:
- *a- Antioxidant enzymes:* Cardiac superoxide dismutase (SOD) glutathione peroxidise (GSH) enzymes and Lipid perodixation marker: Malondialdehyde (MDA) production.
- *b- Cardiac enzymes:* Serum levels of: Troponin-1. Creatin kinase (CK) and CK-MB.
- 4- Statistical analysis of data:

Biochemical analysis: [10]:

Tissue malondialdehyde measurements:

Malondialdehyde measurements were based on the method used by Ohkawa et al. [14], involving spectrophotometric measurement of absorbance of the pink-stained complex formed by thiobarbituric acid (TBA) and MDA. The tissue homogenate sample (0.1mL) was added to a solution containing 0.2ml of 80g/L sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1.5mL of 200g/L acetic acid, 1.5mL of 8g/L 2-thiobarbiturate, and 0.3mL distilled water. The mixture was incubated at 95°C for 1h. Upon cooling, 5mL of n-butanol: Pyridine (15:1) was added. The mixture was vortexed for 1 min and centrifuged for 30min at 4000 rpm. The absorbance of the supernatant was measured at 532nm. The standard curve was obtained using 1,1,3,3-tetramethoxypropane [14].

Total glutathione measurements:

DTNB [5,5'-dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic acid)] disulfite is chromogenic in the medium, and DTNB is reduced easily by sulfhydryl groups. The yellow stain produced during the reduction is measured by spectrophotometry at 412nm. For measurement, a cocktail solution [5.85mL of 100-mM Naphosphate buffer, 2.8mL of 1-mM DTNB 3.75mL of 1-mM Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH), and 80µL of 625-U/L glutathione reductase] was prepared. Before measurement, 0.1mL of meta-phosphoric acid was added onto 0.1mL of tissue homogenate and centrifuged for 2 min at 2000 rpm for deproteinization. Then, 0.15mL of the cocktail solution was added to 50µL of the supernatant. The standard curve was obtained using glutathione disulfide (GSSG).

Troponin I measurement:

Troponin I levels in the plasma obtained from the animals were measured by enzyme-linked fluorescent assay using the VIDAS Troponin I Ultra kit. Readily available test reagents in the kit were used to automatically perform all steps of the test in the VIDAS equipment. The sample was transferred to the well containing alkaline phosphatase (conjugate)-labeled anti-cardiac troponin I antibodies. Sample-conjugate mix was placed in the solid phase receptacle to ensure the binding of the antigen to the conjugate and troponin I, which is bound to the inner wall of the solid phase receptacle. The unbound content was washed away. The conjugated enzyme catalyzes the hydrolysis of 4methyl umbelliferyl phosphate (the substrate) to 4-methylumbelliferone, whose fluorescence is measured at 450nm. The fluorescence intensity is directly proportional to the antigen concentration in the sample.

CK measurement:

Photometric measurement of the CK in the plasma obtained from the animals was performed using Roche/Hitachi Cobas c 701 system. Readily available test reagents were used to perform all steps of the test according to the procedure. UV test is per-formed according to the following reactions. Equimolar NADPH and ATP are produced at the same rate. The rate of NADPH formation, which is photometrically measured at 340nm, is directly proportional to the CK activity.

CK-MB measurement:

Measurement of the CK-MB in the plasma obtained from the animals was performed using Roche/Hitachi Cobas c 701 system. Readily available test reagents were used to perform all steps of the test using immunological UV test, according to the procedure. CK-MB isoenzyme is composed of the two subunits CK-M and CK-B, both of which have an active site. With the help of CK-M-specific antibodies, catalytic activities of the CK-M subunit in the sample are 99.6% inhibited without affecting the CK-B subunit. There maining CK-B activity, which is equivalent to the half of the CK-MB activity, is measured using total CK method.

Results

1- Results of histological studies:

Group I (Normal control): Light microscopic examination of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain showed normal architecture of myocardium; branching and anastomosing cardiac muscle fibers running in different directions with oval vesicular nuclei and acidophilic sarcoplasm. Small thin walled blood vessels and few spindle shaped nuclei of fibroblast in the

interstitial tissue in-between could be observed (Figs. 1,2). Masson's trichrome stained sections of the same group visualized normal architecture of myocardium with minimal collagen deposition between myocardial fibers and around blood vessels (Fig. 3). Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same group revealed numerous mitochondria (m) with normal parallel cristal patteren between myofibrils alternating dark bands (D) and light bands (L) with regular Z lines inside and sarcomere (S) between 2 successive z lines (Fig. 4).

Group II (Doxorubicin administration): Light microscopic examination of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain showed: Completely degenerated myocardial fibers, markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with vacuolated sarcoplasm, markedly increased number of fibroblasts and ghost nuclei, and a small blood vessel could be observed (Figs. 5,6). Masson's trichrome stained sections of the same group visualized marked increase in collagen tissue deposition between myocardial fibers and around a markedly hypertrophied blood vessels and an extensively fibrosed segment of rat myocardium(Figs. 7,8). Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same group revealed markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction Most of mitochondria appear ballooned with lost cristae. Disrupted myofibrils could be observed (Fig. 9).

Group III (Doxorubicin and spironolactone preadministration): Light microscopic examination of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain showed: Apparently normal branching pattern of myocardial fibers, normal vesicular oval nuclei, few fibroblasts with few areas of sarcoplasmic vacuolation could be seen (Fig. 10). Masson's trichrome stained sections of the same group visualized minimal increase in collagen tissue deposition between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested blood vessel (Fig. 11).

Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same group revealed apparently normal myocardial architecture; parallel myofibrils, alternating dark bands (D) and light bands (L) with regular Z lines inside and sarcomere (S) between 2 successive z lines. Most of mitochondria are apparently normal with intact cristae and few of them are ballooned with damaged cristae (Fig. 12).

Group IV (Doxorubicin and spironolactone Coadministration): Light microscopic examination

of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain showed: Markedly increased fibroblasts and ghost nuclei, sarcoplasmic vacuolation, congested blood vessel and mononuclear cell infiltration could be observed (Figs. 13,14). Masson's trichrome stained sections of the same group visualized moderate increase in collagen tissue deposition between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested blood vessel (Fig. 15).

Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same group revealed disrupted myofibrils, sarcoplasmic rarefaction and ballooned mitochondria with damaged cristae (Fig. 16).

Group V (Doxorubicin and spironolactone Postadministration): Light microscopic examination

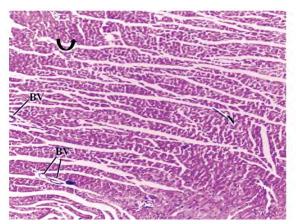


Fig. (1): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group I (Normal control) showing normal architecture of myocardium; branching and anastomosing cardiac muscle fibers (curved arrow) running in different directions with oval vesicular nuclei (N) and acidophilic sarcoplasm. Small thin walled blood vessels can be observed (BV) (H&E X200)

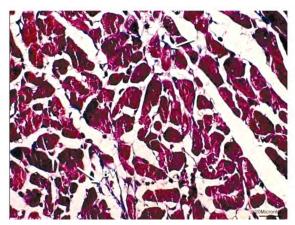


Fig. (3): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group I displaying normal architecture of myocardium with minimal collagen deposition (arrow) between myocardial fibers and around blood vessels (BV) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain showed: Markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with vacuolated sarcoplasm, markedly increased number of fibroblasts and ghost nuclei could be observed (Fig. 17). Masson's trichrome stained sections of the same group visualized moderate increase in collagen tissue deposition between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested thickened blood vessel and an extensively fibrosed segment of rat myocardium (Figs. 18, 19). Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same group revealed markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction. Most of mitochondria appear ballooned with lost cristae that might be huge in many specimens. Disrupted myofibrils could be observed (Figs. 20,21).

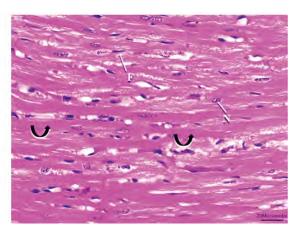


Fig. (2): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group I showing normal architecture of myocardium; branching and anastomosing cardiac muscle fibers (curved arrow) running in different directions with oval vesicular nuclei (N) and acidophilic sarcoplasm. Few spindle shaped nuclei of fibroblast in the interstitial tissue in-between (F) can be observed (H&E X400).

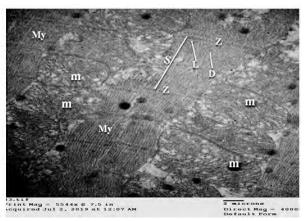


Fig. (4): An electron micrograph of a section of rat myocardium from group I showing numerous mitochondria (m) with normal parallel cristal patteren between myofibrils (My) alternating dark bands (D) and light bands (L) with regular Z lines inside and sarcomere (S) between 2 successive z lines (TEM x4000).

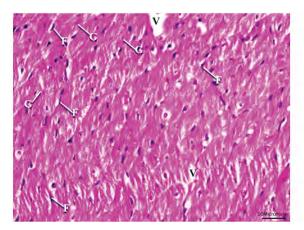


Fig. (5): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group II (Doxorubicin adminstraion) showing markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with vacuolated sarcoplasm (V), markedly increased number of fibroblasts (F) and ghost (G) nuclei can be observed (H&E X400).

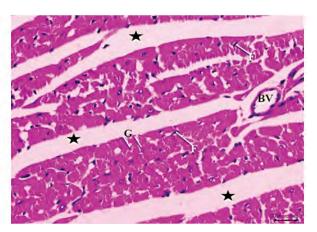


Fig. (6): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group II showing completely degenerated myocardial fibers (star), markedly increased number of fibroblasts (F) and ghost (G) nuclei. A small blood vessel can be observed (H&E X400).

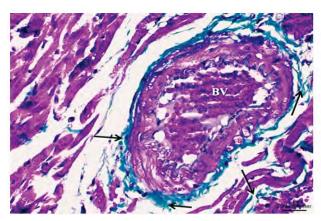


Fig. (7): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group II displaying marked increase in collagen tissue deposition (arrow) between myocardial fibers and around a markedly hypertrophied blood vessels (BV) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

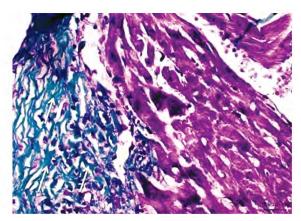


Fig. (8): A photomicrograph of a section from group II displaying an extensively fibrosed segment of rat myocardium (arrows) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

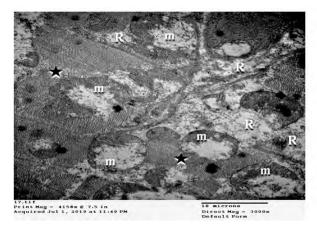


Fig. (9): An electron micrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group II showing markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction (R). Most of mitochondria appear ballooned with lost cristae (m). Disrupted myofibrils (star) can be observed (TEM x3000).

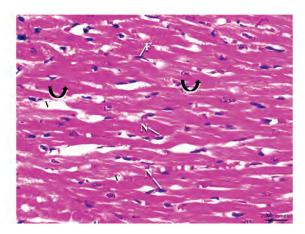


Fig. (10): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group III (Doxorubicin and spironolactone pre-administration) showing apparently normal branching pattern of myocardial fibers (curved arrow), normal vesicular oval nuclei (N), few fibroblasts (F) with few areas of sarcoplasmic vacuolation (V) can be seen.

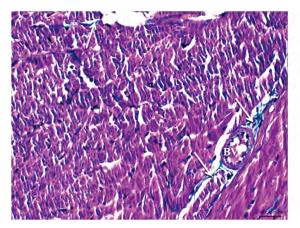


Fig. (11): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group III displaying minimal increase in collagen tissue deposition (arrow) between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested blood vessel (BV) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

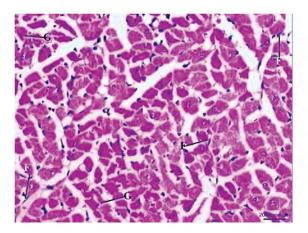


Fig. (13): A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a rat myocardium from group IV (Doxorubicin and spironolactone co-administration): Showing markedly increased fibroblasts (F) and ghost nuclei (G). (H&E X400).

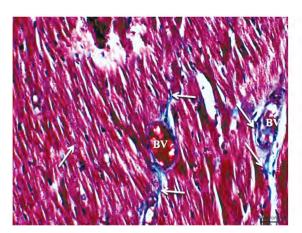


Fig. (15): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group IV displaying moderate increase in collagen tissue deposition (arrow) between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested blood vessel (BV) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

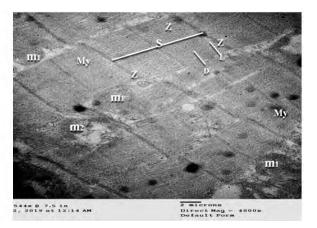


Fig. (12): An electron micrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group III showing apparently normal myocardial architecture; parallel myofibrils (My), alternating dark bands (D) and light bands (L) with regular Z lines inside and sarcomere (S) between 2 successive z lines Most of mitochondria are apparently normal with intact cristae (m1) and few of them (m2) are ballooned with damaged cristae (TEM x4000).

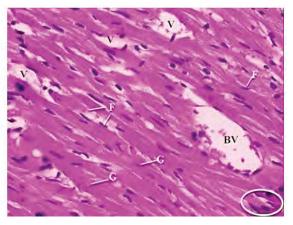


Fig. (14): A photomicrograph of a transverse section of a rat myocardium from group IV: Showing markedly increased fibroblasts (F), ghost nuclei (G), sarcoplasmic vacuolation (V), congested blood vessel (BV) and mononuclear cell infiltration (Circle) can be observed. (H&E X400).

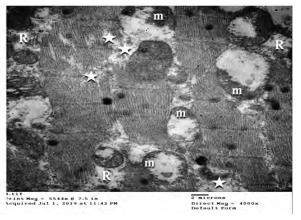


Fig. (16): An electron micrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group IV showing disrupted myofibrils (star), sarcoplasmic rarefaction (R) and ballooned mitochondria (m) with damaged cristae. (TEM X4000).

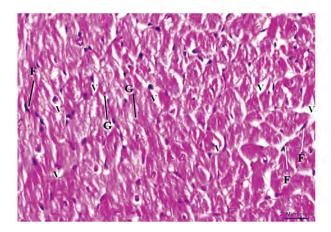


Fig. (17): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group V (Doxorubicin and spironolactone Postadministration) showing markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with vacuolated sarcoplasm (V), markedly increased number of fibroblasts (F) and ghost (G) nuclei can be observed (H&E X400).

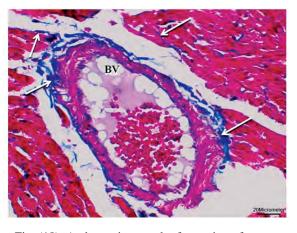


Fig. (18): A photomicrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group V displaying moderate increase in collagen tissue deposition (arrow) between myocardial fibers and around a markedly congested thickened blood vessel (BV) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

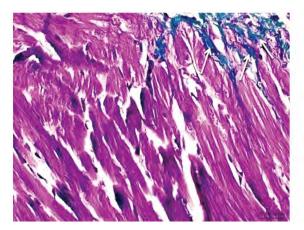


Fig. (19): A photomicrograph of a section from group V displaying an extensively fibrosed segment of rat myocardium (arrows) (Masson's trichrome x 400).

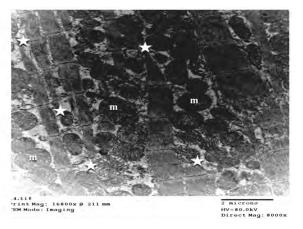


Fig. (20): An electron micrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group V showing markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction (R) Most of mitochondria appear ballooned with lost cristae (m). Disrupted myofibrils (star) can be observed (TEM x8000).

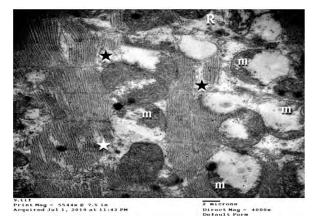


Fig. (21): An electron micrograph of a section of a rat myocardium from group V showing huge mitochondria with lost cristae (m), markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction (R). Disrupted myofibrils (star) can be observed (TEM x4000).

Statistical analysis of data:

The collected data was organized, tabulated and statistically analyzed using SPSS software statistical computer package version 22 (SPSS Inc, USA). The mean and standard deviation (SD) were calculated. One way ANOVA (Analysis of variance) was used to test the difference about mean values of measured variables among groups, multiple comparison between pairs of groups were performed using Tukey HSD (Post hoc range test). For interpretation of results of tests of significance, significance was adopted at $p \le 0.05$.

Collagen area % was statistically significantly higher in group II (12.99 \pm 1.9), IV (7.8 \pm 0.87), and V (9.49 \pm 1.75) when compared to control (2.79 \pm

0.9), p<0.0001. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.096. Collagen area % was a statistically significantly lower in groups; III (5.02±0.73), IV (7.8±0.87), and V (9.49±1.75) as compared to group II (12.99±1.9), p<0.0001, p<0.0001 and p=0.004, respectively. As well as, it was statistically significantly higher in group IV (7.8±0.87), and V (9.49±1.75) when compared to group III (5.02±0.73), p=0.026 and p<0.0001, respectively. There was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV and group V (p=0.294) (Figs. 22,23).

SOD was statistically significantly lower in group II (1.26 ± 0.49) , IV (2.66 ± 0.5) , and V $(1.53\pm$ 0.65) when compared to control (4.17 ± 0.43) , p < 0.0001, p = 0.001, and p < 0.0001, respectively. Conversely, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.125. Likewise, SOD was a statistically significantly lower in both groups; III (3.37±0.43) and IV (2.66 ± 0.5) as compared to group II (1.26 ± 0.49), p<0.0001 and p=0.002, respectively. But, there was no a statistically significantly difference between group V and group II, p=0.913. Also, it was statistically significantly higher in group V (1.53 ± 0.65) as compared to group III (3.37 ± 0.43), p<0.0001. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV and group III (p=0.218). There was a statistically significant difference between the group IV and group V (*p*=0.016) (Figs. 24,25).

GSH was a statistically significantly lower in group II (21.23±3.56), III (40.54±8.33), and V (27.4 ± 3.05) when compared to control $(63.49\pm$ 5.42), p<0.0001. In opposition, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.222. However, it was a statistically significantly higher in both groups; III (55.92± 5.32), and IV (40.54 ± 8.33) as compared to group II (21.23 \pm 3.56), p<0.0001. There was no a statistically significantly difference between group V and group II, p=0.408. On the other hand, it was statistically significantly higher in group IV (40.54 ± 8.33) and V (27.4 ± 3.05) as compared to group III (55.92 \pm 5.32), p=0.002 and p<0.0001, respectively. Also, there was a statistically significant difference between the group IV and group V (p=0.009) (Figs. 26,27).

MDA was statistically significantly higher in group II (69.41 \pm 11.89), IV (47.79 \pm 6.03), and V (57.53 \pm 6.26) when compared to control (19.99 \pm 7.81), p<0.0001. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.054. MDA was a statistically significant-

ly lower in groups; III (34.35 \pm 4.06), and IV (57.53 \pm 6.26) as compared to group II (69.41 \pm 11.89), p<0.0001 and p=0.002, respectively. But, there was a no statistically significantly difference between group V and group II, p=0.143. Also, it was statistically significantly higher group V (57.53 \pm 6.26) when compared to group III (34.35 \pm 4.06), p=0.001. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group III (p=0.078) and group V (p=0.299) (Figs. 28,29).

CK was statistically significantly higher in group II (1008±87.85), IV (619.8±33.57), and V (647.4 ± 79.86) when compared to control $(427.8\pm$ 54.1), p < 0.0001, p = 0.002, and p = 0.001, respectively. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.929. CK was a statistically significantly lower in groups; III (462.6±76.48), IV (619.8±33.57), and V (647.4 ± 79.86) as compared to group II (1008 ± 87.85), p<0.0001. Also, it was statistically significantly higher in group IV (619.8±33.57), and V (647.4± 79.86) when compared to group III (462.6 ± 76.48) , p=0.014 and p=0.003, respectively. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group V (p=0.968) (Figs. 30,31).

CK-MB was statistically significantly higher in group II (423.2 \pm 165.71), when compared to control (149 \pm 35.1), p=0.001. Also, itwas a statistically significantly lower in groupsIII (208.6 \pm 14.6), p=0.009. But, there was no a statistically significantly differences in CK-MBbetween other groups (p>0.050) (Figs. 32,33).

Troponin I was statistically significantly higher in group II (73.6±10.88), IV (54±5.87), and V (65.4 ± 13.96) when compared to control $(22.2\pm$ 9.52), p < 0.0001. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.317. Troponin I was also a statistically significantly lower in groups; III (34.4±6.54), IV (54 ± 5.87) , as compared to group II (73.6 ± 10.88) , p<0.0001 and p=0.035, respectively. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group V versus group II (p=0.681). Also, it was statistically significantly higher in group IV (54±5.87), and V (65.4±13.96) versus group III (34.4 \pm 6.54), p=0.035 and p=0.001, respectively. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group V (*p*=0.381) (Figs. 34,35).

TNF alpha was statistically significantly higher in group II (8.98±1.02), IV (4.95±1.21), and V

(5.85 \pm 1.8) when compared to control (2.41 \pm 0.49), p<0.0001, p=0.017 and p=0.001, respectively. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.832. TNF alpha was also a statistically significantly lower in groups; III (3.17 \pm 0.75), IV (4.95 \pm 1.21), and V (5.85 \pm 1.8), as compared to group II (8.98 \pm 1.02), p<0.0001, p<0.0001 and p=0.003, respectively. Also, it was statistically significantly higher in group V (5.85 \pm 1.8) versus group III (3.17 \pm 0.75), p=0.011. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group V versus group III (p=0.140). However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group V (p=0.726) (Figs. 36,37).

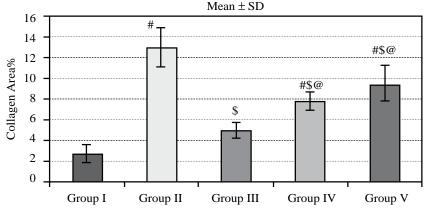
IL-1b was statistically significantly higher in group II (6.72 \pm 1.3), IV (3.96 \pm 0.99), and V (5.6 \pm 1.62) when compared to control (1.5 \pm 0.27), p<0.0001, p=0.014, p<0.0001, respectively. However, the difference between group III and control was not a statistically significant, p=0.521. IL-1b was also a statistically significantly lower in groups; III (2.59 \pm 0.69), IV (3.96 \pm 0.99), as compared to group II (6.72 \pm 1.3), p<0.0001 and p=0.005, respectively. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group V versus group

II (p=0.489). Also, it was statistically significantly higher in group V (5.6±1.62) versus group III (2.59 ±0.69), p=0.002. But, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group III (p=0.300). As well as, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group V (p=0.157) (Figs. 38,39).

e NO was statistically significantly lower in group II (39.2±13.97), IV (64.4±11.8), and V (49.4± 11.41) when compared to control (101.2 ± 15.01), p < 0.0001, p = 0.001, p < 0.0001, respectively. But, there was no a statistically significant difference between group III and control, p=0.362. It was also a statistically significantly higher in groups; III (86.2±10.52), IV (64.4±11.8), as compared to group II (39.2 \pm 13.97), p<0.0001 and p=0.036, respectively. However, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group V versus group II (p=0.709). Also, it was statistically significantly lower in group V (49.4±11.41) versus group III (86.2 \pm 10.52), p=0.001. But, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group III (p=0.085). Also, there was no a statistically significant difference between the group IV versus group V (p=0.362) (Figs. 40,41).

	Group I (Group I (Control)		p II	Grou	ıp III	Grou	ıp IV	Grou	p V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Collagen area %	2.79	0.9	12.99	1.9	5.02	0.73	7.8	0.87	9.49	1.75
p-values G I vs. G II G I vs. G III G I vs. G IV G I vs. G V G II vs. G III G II vs. G IV G II vs. G V G III vs. G V	<0.000 0.096 (<0.000 <0.000	(NS) 01 (S)	<0.000 <0.000 0.004 (01 (S)	0.026 <0.00	(S) 01 (S)	0.294	4 (NS)		

Fig. (22): A table illustrating area percent of collagen fibers in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

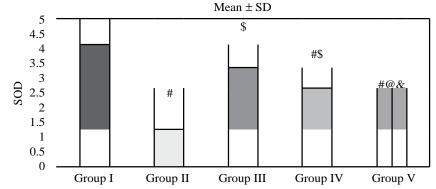


- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (23): Histogram: Illustrating mean distribution of the connective tissue (area percent) between the fibers in rat myocardium specimens obtained from the different groups of the examined animals.

	Group I (Control)		Grou	p II	Grou	ıp III	Grou	p IV	Grou	p V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
SOD	4.17	0.43	1.26	0.49	3.37	0.43	2.66	0.5	1.53	0.65
<i>p</i> -values										
G I vs. G II	< 0.00	01 (S)								
G I vs. G III	0.124 (NS)									
G I vs. G IV	0.001	(S)								
G I vs. G V	< 0.00	01 (S)								
G II vs. G III			< 0.000	01 (S)						
G II vs. G IV			0.002	(S)						
G II vs. G V			0.913	(NS)						
G III vs. G IV				` ′	0.218	(NS)				
G III vs. G V						01 (Ś)				
G IV vs. G V						. (-)	0.01	6 (S)		

Fig. (24): A table illustrating mean values of SOD in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



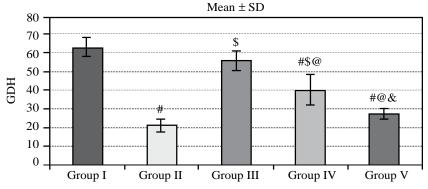
- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (25): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of SOD in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

Glutathione Peroxidase (GSH):

	Group I (Control)	Gro	up II	Grou	ıp III	Gro	up IV	Gro	up V
	Mean S	SD N	1ean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
GSH	63.49	5.42	21.23	3.56	55.92	5.32	40.54	8.33	27.4	3.05
p-values G I vs. G II G I vs. G III G I vs. G IV G I vs. G IV G II vs. G V G II vs. G IV G II vs. G IV G II vs. G V G III vs. G V	<0.000 0.222 <0.000 <0.000	(NS) 01 (S)	< 0.00	001 (S) 001 (S) 3 (NS)	0.002 <0.00	(S) 01 (S)	0.00	09 (S)		

Fig. (26): A table illustrating mean values of GSH in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



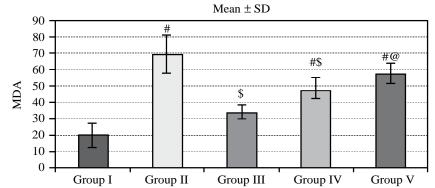
- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (27): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of GSH in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

MDA:

	Group I (Control)	Gro	up II	Grou	ıp III	Group	o IV	Grou	p V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
MDA	19.99	7.81	69.41	11.89	34.35	4.06	47.79	6.03	57.53	6.26
<i>p</i> -values										
G I vs. G II	< 0.000	01 (S)								
G I vs. G III	0.054 (NS)									
G I vs. G IV	< 0.000)1 (S)								
G I vs. G V	< 0.000	01 (S)								
G II vs. G III			< 0.00	001 (S)						
G II vs. G IV			0.002	2 (S)						
G II vs. G V			0.143	(NS)						
G III vs. G IV					0.078	(NS)				
G III vs. G V					0.001	(S)				
G IV vs. G V							0.299	9 (NS)		

Fig. (28): A table illustrating mean values of MDA in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

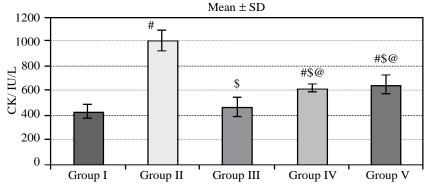


- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (29): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of MDA in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

	Group I (Control)		Grou	ıp II	Grou	ıp III	Grou	p IV	Grou	ıp V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
СК	427.8	54.1	1008	87.85	462.6	76.48	619.8	33.57	647.4	79.86
<i>p</i> -values										
G I vs. G II	< 0.000	1 (S)								
G I vs. G III	0.929 (NS)									
G I vs. G IV	0.002	(S)								
G I vs. G V	0.001	(S)								
G II vs. G III			< 0.00	01 (S)						
G II vs. G IV			< 0.00	01 (S)						
G II vs. G V			< 0.00	01 (S)						
G III vs. G IV					0.01	4 (S)				
G III vs. G V					0.00	03 (S)				
G IV vs. G V							0.968	8 (NS)		

Fig. (30): A Table: Illustrating mean values of CK in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

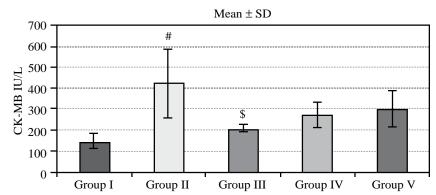


- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (31): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of CK in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

	Group I (Group I (Control)		up II	Grou	p III	Grou	p IV	Grou	ıp V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
CK-MB IU/L	149	35.1	423.2	165.71	208.6	14.6	273.2	61.1	303.2	84.69
<i>p</i> -values										
G I vs. G II	0.001 (S)									
G I vs. G III	0.826 (NS)									
G I vs. G IV	0.220	(NS)								
G I vs. G V	0.084	(NS)								
G II vs. G III			0.009	9 (S)						
G II vs. G IV			0.09°	7 (NS)						
G II vs. G V			0.248	8 (NS)						
G III vs. G IV					0.781	(NS)				
G III vs. G V					0.470	(NS)				
G IV vs. G V							0.983	(NS)		

Fig. (32): A Table: Illustrating mean values of CK-MB in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

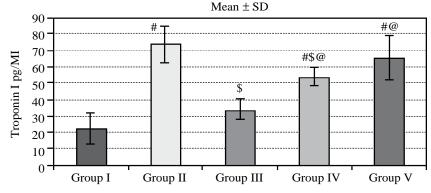


- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (33): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of CK-MB in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

	Group I (Control)		Gro	up II	Grou	p III	Grou	p IV	Group V	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Troponin I pg/MI	22.2	9.52	73.6	10.88	34.4	6.54	54	5.87	65.4	13.96
p-values G I vs. G II G I vs. G III G I vs. G IV G I vs. G IV G II vs. G III G II vs. G IV G III vs. G IV G III vs. G IV G III vs. G IV	<0.000 0.317 <0.000 <0.000	(NS) 01 (S)	0.03	001 (S) 5 (S) 1 (NS)	0.035 0.000	` '	0.381	(AIC)		

Fig. (34): A Table: Illustrating mean values of Troponin I in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



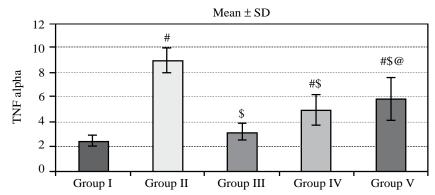
- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (35): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of Troponin 1 in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

TNF alpha:

	Group I (Group I (Control)		ıp II	Grou	ıp III	Grou	p IV	Grou	p V
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
TNF Alpha	2.41	0.49	8.98	1.02	3.17	0.75	4.95	1.21	5.85	1.8
p-values G I vs. G II G I vs. G III G I vs. G IV G I vs. G IV G II vs. G V G III vs. G IV G III vs. G V G III vs. G V	<0.00 0.832 0.017 0.001	(NS) (S)	<0.000 <0.000 0.003)1 (S)	0.140 0.011		0.726	(NS)		

Fig. (36): A Table: Illustrating mean values of TNF alpha in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



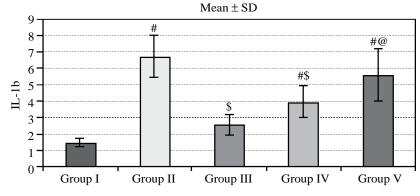
- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (37): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of TNF alpha in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

IL-1b:

	Group I (Group I (Control)		Group II		Group III		Group IV		Group V	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
IL-1b	1.5	0.27	6.72	1.3	2.59	0.69	3.96	0.99	5.6	1.62	
p-values G I vs. G II G I vs. G III G I vs. G IV G I vs. G V G II vs. G III G II vs. G IV G II vs. G V G III vs. G V G III vs. G V G III vs. G IV G III vs. G V	0.521 0.014		0.003	001 (S) 5 (S) 9 (NS)	0.300 0.002) (NS) 2 (S)	0.157	(NS)			

Fig. (38): A Table: Illustrating mean values of IL-1b in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



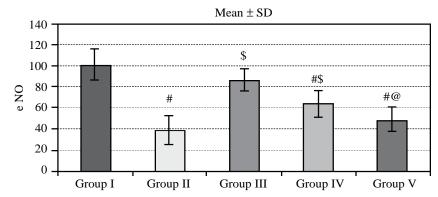
- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (39): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of IL-1b in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

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	Group I	(Control)	Gro	Group III Group III		up III	Gro	up IV	Gro	up V
	Mean \$	SD N	1ean	SD N	1 ean	SD N	1ean	SD	Mean	SD
e NO	101.2	15.01	39.2	13.97	86.2	10.52	64.4	11.8	49.4	11.41
<i>p</i> -values										
G I vs. G II	< 0.00	01 (S)								
G I vs. G III	0.362	(NS)								
G I vs. G IV	0.001	(S)								
G I vs. G V	< 0.00	01 (S)								
G II vs. G III			< 0.00	001 (S)						
G II vs. G IV			0.036	5 (S)						
G II vs. G V			0.709	(NS)						
G III vs. G IV					0.085	(NS)				
G III vs. G V					0.001	(S)				
G IV vs. G V							0.36	2 (NS)		

Fig. (40): A Table: Illustrating mean values of e NO in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.



- # Significant from control.
- \$ Significant from group II.
- @ Significant from group III & Significant from group IV.

Fig. (41): A Histogram: Illustrating mean values of e NO in rat myocardium specimens obtained from different groups of the examined animals.

Discussion

In the current study, Light microscopic examination of rat heart specimens stained with haematoxylin and eosin stain, in rats treated with doxorubicin, showed: Completely degenerated myocardial fibers, markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with vacuolated sarcoplasm, markedly increased number of fibroblasts and ghost nuclei, marked increase in collagen tissue deposition between myocardial fibers and around a blood vessels with extensively fibrosis of rat myocardium. Electron microscopic examination of rat heart specimens of the same groups revealed markedly disturbed myocardial architecture with extensive sarcoplasmic rarefaction Most of mitochondria appear ballooned with lost cristae with disrupted myofibrils. This was in agreement with [11,12,13] who stated that in malignant cells, the primary cytotoxic effect of doxorubicin is exerted through the inhibition of topoisomerase II and DNA intercalation leading to reactive oxygen species production, DNA cross-linking and apoptosis. They added that the basic mechanism underlying doxorubicin cardiotoxicity is that doxorubicin interacts with iron metabolism and with resultant formation of an anthracycline-iron complex that induces lipid peroxidation, Moreover, DNA damage by reactive oxygen species production results in contractile impairment, irreversible myocardial damage and fibrosis with intracellular Ca2+ dysregulation.

In the present study, doxorubicin administration resulted in a significant increase in MDA levels in, whereas a significant decrease was observed in glutathion peroxidise levels compared to the control group. This was in agreement with [14-18] who stated that one of the most important indicators of the oxidative damage is the end product of lipid peroxidation, MDA. In oxidative tissue damage, increased levels of MDA is observed whereas a decrease is observed in the amount of endogenous antioxidant enzyme, glutathion peroxidise.

In the current study, doxorubicin administration resulted in a significant increase in the levels of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-1 β and TNF- α . This was in accordance with [10] who reported that IL-1 β and TNF- α emerge in the early stage of inflammation leading to systemic tissue damage, oxidative explosion in the neutrophils and release of reactive oxygen species, via their common signalling molecules and that IL-1 β plays an important role in inflammatory cascade by causing apoptosis and leukocyte infiltration.

In the present study, Cardiac Troponin I (TPI) CK, and CK-MB have been significantly increased following doxorubicin administration. This was in agreement with [19-21] who reported that TPI is one of the highly sensitive and specific parameters of myocardial damage and that doxorubicin has the potential to disrupt the cell membranes, which enables the release of intracellular proteins such as cardiac TPI, CK, and CK-MB.

In the current work, administration of spironolactone markedly ameliorated all histological and biochemical alterations especially when injected prior to doxorubicin administration. This was in agreement with [22] who stated that spironolactone could decrease overproduction of reactive oxygen species and can improve endothelial dysfunction in heart failure.

In the present work, spironolactone administration resulted in decreased levels of TNF alpha, IL-1b especially if received before doxorubicin administration. This was in accordance with [2,23,24, 25,26] who reported that spironolactone can decrease proinflammatory cytokine especially if given before doxorubicin. They added that TNF- α is a cytokine that plays a dominant role in the inflammatory response and is synthesized by many cells, most commonly macrophages. The apoptotic and proliferative effects of tumour necrotic- α (TNF- α) are thought to be mediated through two distinct receptors; apoptosis is induced when TNF receptor 1 (TNFR1) is stimulated.

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تأ ثير عقار سبيرونولاكتون على السمية القلبية المستحثه بعقار دوكسوروبسين في الفأر الأبيض البالغ: دراسة هستولوجية، فارماكولوجية وكيميائية حيوية

يعتبر دوكسوروبسين الذى ينتمى لمجموعة الانثراسيكلين علاج كيميائى فعال عدة أورام صلبة وكذلك أورام الدم الخبيثة. ولقد قل استخدامه بسبب تأثيره السئ على عضلة القلب مثل الضمور المستمر، تغييرات فى رسم القلب وفشل القلب المحتقن. ولقد أثبتت الدراسات تأثير عقار سبيرونولاكتون فى تحسن تليف القلب الناتجة عن استخدام هذا العقار. فهو يستخدم بالفعل لعلاج سمية القلب الناتجة عن استخدام دوكسوروبسين.

هدف هذه الدراسة: هو توضيح الدور الوقائي والعلاجي لسبيرونولاكتون في سمية القلب الناتجة عن استخدام ودوكسوروبسين.

فى هذه الدراسة: تم استخدام خمسين فأر من الذكور تتراوح اوزانها بين ١٨٠ إلى ٢٢٠ جرام وتم تقسيمها إلى خمس مجموعات كالتالى: المجموعة الأولى (الضابطة): تم حقنها بمحلول الملح فى الغشاء البريتونى مرة واحدة يومياً لمدة ١٤ يوم. المجموعة الثانية، الثالثة، الرابعة والخامسة: تم حقنها ١٠ مجم/كجم من دوكسوروبسين فى الغشاء البريتونى مرة واحدة يومياً لمدة ١٤ يوم. فى المجموعة الثالثة تم إعطاء الحيوانات سبيرونولاكتون لمدة ٧ أيام قبل بداية حقنهم بعقار دوكسوروبسين. فى المجموعة الرابعة تم إعطاء الحيوانات سبيرونولاكتون مرة واحدة يومياً لمدة ١٤ يوم مع عقار دوكسوروبسين. المجموعة الخامسة تم اعطاء الحيوانات عقار دوكسوروبسين مرة واحدة يومياً لمدة ١٤ يوم ثم تم أعطائهم عقار سبيرونولاكتون كانت ٤٠ مجم/كجم عن طريق يوم ثم تم أعطائهم عقار سبيرونولاكتون لمدة ٧ أيام بعد توقف عقار دوكسوروبسين. جرعة عقار سبيرونولاكتون كانت ٤٠ مجم/كجم عن طريق انبوبة فميه. ولقد أدى استخدام عقار دوكسوروبسين إلى حدوث تغيرات هستولوجية ومعملية مثل تليف عضلة القلب، انتفاخ الميتوكوندريا وارتفاع مستوى انزيمات القلب، ولقد أدى استخدام عقار سبيرونولاكتون إلى تحسن التغيرات الهستولوجية والوظيفية هذه وبخاصة اذا تم اعطاؤه قبل حقن عقار دوكسوروبسين.

الخلاصة: هي قدرة عقار سبيرونولاكتون لمنع التغيرات الهستواوجية والوظيفية السلبية الناتجة عن استخدام عقار دوكسوروبسين.