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## *Phoenix dactylifera* seed extract ameliorates the biochemical toxicity induced by silver nanoparticles in mice

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Recently, silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) are involved in several biomedical, industrial and agriculture applications. However, the accumulation of these particles in the human body causes severe side effects on different vital organs. *Phoenix dactylifera* seed extract (PDSE) showed a biological activity as a hepatic-renal protective agent. **Aim:** This study was conducted to evaluate the hepatic-protective effect of the PDSE on AgNPs induced toxicity in mice. **Materials and methods:** Forty male mice were divided into 4 groups (n = 10) as follows: Gp1 was injected intraperitoneally (i.p) with 200 $\mu$ l sterile saline. Gp2 was injected i.p with PDSE (100 mg/kg) for a month. Gp3 was injected i.p with AgNPs (0.25  $\mu$ l) for one month and Gp4 was injected with AgNPs as in Gp3 then injected with PDSE as in Gp2. Some hematological and biochemical parameters were determined with histological observation. **Results:** The results showed that injection of AgNPs led to toxicity in both liver and kidney organs as shown by elevation of liver enzymes aspartate transaminase, alanine transaminase, and kidney enzymes: urea and creatinine levels. Furthermore, the activity of antioxidant enzymes superoxide dismutase and catalase was decreased, while the level of malondialdehyde increased. Histologically, AgNPs injection altered the architectures of the liver and kidney tissues. Treatment with PDSE post-AgNPs injection ameliorated all previous parameters induced by AgNPs toxicity. **Conclusion:** PDSE has the potential to augment the pathophysiological alternation in the liver induced by AgNPs toxicity in mice.

**Keywords:** Antioxidants enzymes, nanoparticles; *phoenix dactylifera*; silver; Toxicity

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### INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology is a rapidly growing field of interdisciplinary research, particularly in biotechnology (Natarajan et al., 2010). Nanoparticles (NPs) are particles with an average size range between 1–100 nm (Ema et al., 2017). The application of nanomaterials ranges from the novel domain of drug targeting to the creation of infection-resistant surfaces. Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) are generally used in preclinical trials and clinical settings for the treatment of different diseases (Natarajan et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2013). Although the use of AgNPs is steadily increasing in biomedical applications, little is known regarding the potential health hazards, of food supplements, plastic food containers, coatings on medical devices, water disinfectants, air filters,

electronic gadgets, odor-resistant textile fabrics and cosmetics items such as deodorants, which all contain AgNPs (Quang et al., 2013; Vance et al., 2015). AgNPs have recently been identified as ideal candidates for conquering pathologies previously treated with conventional antibiotics (Zhu et al., 2014). AgNPs are used as antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, and anti-inflammatory agents (El-Badawy et al., 2010).

Herbal medicine is the study of pharmacognosy and the application of medicinal herbs, which forms the foundation of traditional medicine (Lack et al., 2016). People with chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, asthma and end-stage kidney disease are more likely to take herbal medicines (Roosbeh et al., 2013). Herbs are now used to treat chronic and acute illnesses, as well as a variety of maladies and difficulties such

as cardiovascular disease, prostate issues, depression and inflammation, as well as to enhance the immune system. Herbal medications are increasing in popularity and researchers are currently investigating the scientific basis for their medicinal effects (Gupta and Briyal, 2004). Medicinal plants that contain phytochemicals like polyphenolic compounds can help to prevent degenerative diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurological illnesses (Tsao, 2010). Polyphenols are powerful antioxidants that work in tandem with antioxidant vitamins and enzymes to protect the body from oxidative stress caused by the increased production of reactive oxygen species (Dong et al., 2009).

*Phoenix dactylifera L.*, also known as date or date palm, is a flowering plant in the Arecaceae palm family that is grown for its tasty sweet fruit. The species is commonly farmed in Northern Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, as well as in many tropical and subtropical climates around the world. *P. dactylifera L.* is the type species of the genus Phoenix, which includes 12–19 species of wild date palms and is the most important commercial source of production (Krueger and Robert, 2018). The *P. dactylifera L.* is a centuries-old native of the Middle East (Adaay and Mattar, 2012). Many pharmacological investigations have been conducted due to a growing interest in the numerous health-promoting characteristics of date fruits and seeds (Chao and Krueger, 2007). *P. dactylifera L.* is a good source of dietary potassium and include a wide spectrum of vital elements and offer a good promise in the treatment of diabetes due to the presence of polyphenols that have strong antioxidant properties (Mia, 2020).

Several pure aqueous and combined aqueous/organic solvent extracts of date palm fruits were discovered to have oxidative stress activity, free radical scavenging capability, coronary heart disease prevention, hepatic protective, anti-inflammatory and anticancer activities against prostate cancer cells (Mirza et al., 2018). Date fruit shows potential health advantages against a variety of cancers. *P. dactylifera L.* consumption lowered the incidence rate of breast cancer, palpable tumour multiplicity, tumour size, and weight

(Al-Sayyed et al., 2014). By promoting the growth of good bacteria and reducing the multiplication of colon cancer cells, *P. dactylifera L.* may help to improve colon health (Eid et al., 2014). The present study aims to address the potential protective effect of *Phoenix dactylifera L.* seeds extract (PDSE) on the liver of mice exposed to silver nanoparticles.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Chemicals

#### Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs)

Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) with average size ( $15 \pm 3$  nm) were purchased from Nanotech Egypt for Photo-Electronics (El-Wahaat Road, Dream Land City, Entrance 3, City of 6 October, Giza, Egypt). Vials were diluted by phosphate buffer saline (PBS) and the concentration was adjusted to 0.25 mg/kg, in 200  $\mu$ l (Hemen Moradi-Sardareha et al., 2018). Aspartate amino transferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), urea, creatinine, albumin, total protein, superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), reduced glutathione (GSH) and malondialdehyde (MDA) kits were purchased from Bio diagnostic company, Egypt.

#### *Phoenix dactylifera L.* seeds and extracts preparation

*Phoenix dactylifera L.* was purchased from a local market in Tanta city, Egypt. The plant materials were identified and authenticated by a taxonomist at the Botany Department, Faculty of Science, Tanta University. *Phoenix dactylifera L.* seeds were dried in shade then crushed in a mortar and the powder was kept in a suitable place for further studies. 50 g of seed powder was mixed vigorously with 500 mL 70% (V/V) ethanol. The hydro-alcoholic extracts were filtered and the solvent was dried under air condition, then the extracts were weighed and suspended in 0.9 % sterile saline for further processing.

### Animals

Forty male Swiss albino mice ( $20 \pm 2$  g) were allowed acclimating for a week in the animal facility conditions at the Faculty of Science, Tanta University, before experimentation. The institutional animal care committee and Local Ethics Committee and Animals Research (Faculty of Science, Tanta University- Egypt),

approved the experimental design and protocol (IACUC-SCI-TU- 0187).

### Experimental design

The laboratory conditions used were about  $22 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $55 \pm 5\%$  RH, and 12:12h (day/night) cycle. Mice were supplied with drinking tap water and normal experimental pelleted animal food *ad libitum*. After 1 week of acclimation period in the animal facility, mice were divided into four groups (n=10). Gp 1 mice were injected intraperitoneal (i.p) with saline for one month; Gp 2 were injected i.p with PDSE (100mg/kg) (El-Habibi, et al., 2017) for a month; Gp 3 were injected i.p with AgNPs (0.25 $\mu\text{l}$ ) for one month and Gp 4 were injected with AgNPs as in Gp3 then injected with PDSE as in Gp2. Mice were sacrificed to collect blood samples for hematological, biochemical and histological investigation.

### Hematology and biochemical analysis

Complete blood pictures (CBC) were determined in all the studied groups using automatic methods (Sysmex kx-21n automated hematology analyzer; JAPAN CARE CO., LTD) (Fujimoto, 1999), which include red blood cells (RBCs), hemoglobin (Hb), hematocrit value (Hct), leucocyte count and platelets (Pit) (El-Moghazy et al., 2014). Liver enzymatic levels such as aspartate transaminase (AST), alanine transaminase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), Albumin levels and serum total protein levels were determined (Moss et al., 1999; Schumann and Klauke, 2003). Catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD), Malondialdehyde (MDA), and glutathione (GSH) were assayed according to earlier methods (Aebi, 1984; Nishikimi et al., 1972; Buege and Aust, 1978; Beutler et al., 1963).

### Histopathological investigations

Histopathological investigations, small parts from livers were preserved in 10% phosphate-buffered formalin at 4-5 mm<sup>3</sup> thickness, dehydrated in graded alcohol series, cleared in xylene and embedded in paraffin blocks. 4-5  $\mu\text{m}$  sections of the collected sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin for histopathological examination (Bancroft and Stevens, 1996).

### Statistical Analysis

The data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Comparison between groups was carried out using one-way ANOVA. If there is a significant difference between means, Tukey post-hoc comparisons among different groups were performed. For all statistical tests,  $P < 0.05$  was considered to be statistically significant. Data and statistical analysis were performed using Excel 2013 (Microsoft Corporation, USA), and Minitab (version 18).

## RESULTS

### Bodyweight changes upon the injection with AgNPs and treatment with PDSE

The initial body weight of different groups was approximately  $20 \pm 2$  g. Post a month of treatment either with AgNPs (Gp3), PDSE alone (Gp2) or with a combination of AgNPs/PDSE (Gp4), the final body weight of mice were found more or less similar (Figure 1). The Group of mice that were treated with AgNPs alone (Gp3) showed a decrease in the final body weight as compared with Gp1 or the group injected with PDSE alone (Gp2). The treatment with AgNPs/PDSE (Gp4) did not enhance ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) the final body weight of treated mice with AgNPs and was still lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) than those in the control.

### PDSE treatment post-AgNPs restored CBC close to normal value

The results showed that the total number of red blood cell (RBCs), hemoglobin (Hb) content and hematocrit (Hct) values did not change significantly ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) in the group of mice that were injected with PDSE when compared to the control group (Gp1). Significant decreases ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the previous parameters were reported in mice that were treated with AgNPs. The total number of white blood cells (WBCs) did not change significantly ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) in the group of mice that were injected with PDSE but this count showed an increase in the group of mice that were treated with AgNPs. Mice treated with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the count of WBCs close to normal. The platelets number was significantly increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the treatment of mice with AgNPs only as compared to the control group (Table 1).

### **PDSE treatment post-AgNPs injection enhanced the liver function**

The results showed that the liver enzymes (ALT, AST and ALP) increased in the group of mice that were injected with AgNPs when compared to control mice. Treatment of mice with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored ALT, AST and ALP levels close to normal range (Table 2). The results showed that the total protein and albumin levels significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) decreased in the mice that were injected with AgNPs when compared to their values in control mice. The mice that were injected with PDSE did not show any significant ( $P \geq 0.05$ ) in liver enzymes levels. Treatment of mice with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the total protein and albumin levels close to the normal range (Figure 2).

### **Antioxidant effect of PDSE treatment post-AgNPs injection enhanced the enzymes**

The results showed that the level of SOD, CAT and GSH was decreased in the group of mice that were injected with AgNPs when compared to their value of control mice. Treatment with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the level of SOD, CAT and GSH close to normal range. Significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) increased in MDA level in the group of mice that were injected with AgNPs; however, treatment of mice with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored MDA level close to normal range (Figure 3).

### **PDSE treatment post-AgNPs injection improved the liver architectures in AgNPs induced toxicity mice**

Histological observation of liver from mice exposed to AgNPs confirms the toxicity exerted by AgNPs. The liver section of mice injected with PDSE (Gp2) showed that the hepatic tissue had the same architecture as the control group except for the presence of few cytoplasmic vacuolations and few hepatocytes with deeply stained shrunken nuclei. The changes in the liver of the AgNPs treated mice (Gp3) showed disorganized hepatic strands with certain degenerative features. Most hepatic cells have rounded pyknotic darkly stained nuclei. The central veins showed atrophic changes including epithelial shedding and loss of their regular shape. Obvious cytoplasmic vacuolations which gave a spongy appearance,

sinusoidal dilatation, swollen central vein, and dispersed congested dilated blood vessels were also noticed. Moreover, severe inflammatory cell infiltration was observed around the central vein area. Mice treated with PDSE post-AgNPs injection (Gp4), the light microscopic observations revealed marked improvement in hepatic cellularity. Hepatocytes had retained their regular shape with their basophilic cytoplasm and large centric rounded nuclei as compared to the AgNPs group (Gp3). Few hepatic cells showed darkly stained pyknotic nuclei, congested blood vessels, cytoplasmic vacuolations, and cell infiltration were also observed (Figure 4).

### **DISCUSSION**

Silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) have the potential to be used in biosensing, imaging, cosmetics, medicine, home-products and research facilities, due to their unique physicochemical features (Dubas and Pimpan, 2008). The toxicity of AgNPs to human cells appears to be induced by oxidative stress and inflammation (AshaRani et al., 2009; Park et al., 2010; Gopinath et al., 2010; Wise et al., 2010). *Phoenix dactylifera L.* is a useful traditional medicinal plant. Its phytochemical investigation has revealed that the fruits contain anthocyanins, phenolics, sterols, carotenoids, procyanidins, and flavonoids, compounds known to possess free radical scavenging, anti-oxidant, anti-mutagenic, anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, anti-hyperlipidemic, gastroprotective, hepatoprotective, nephroprotective, anticancer, and immunostimulant activities (Baliga et al., 2011; El-Far et al., 2016).

The current study was undertaken to investigate the therapeutic effect of PDSE against AgNPs induced toxicity in adult male mice. The results showed that there is a significant decrease in the bodyweight of mice injected with AgNPs when compared with the control group injected with saline. A similar study showed that exposure to AgNPs can lead to weight loss (Tiwari et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2013; Xia et al., 2014). The present study revealed a significant decrease in the total number of RBCs, Hb level and Hct in AgNPs injection mice when compared with the control group which may reflect toxic effect of AgNPs

**Table 1.** Effect of AgNPs on complete blood picture of different groups under study.

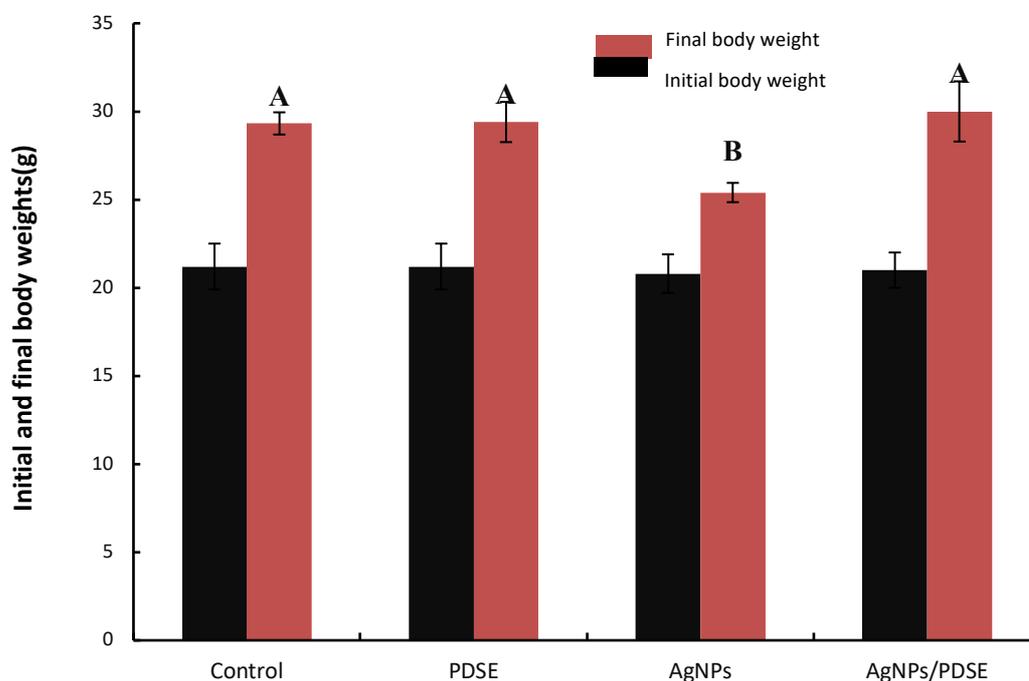
Groups	RBCs (x10 <sup>6</sup> /μL)	Hb (g/dL)	HCT (%)	Plat. (x10 <sup>3</sup> /μL)	WBCs (x10 <sup>3</sup> /μL)
Control	7.5 ± 0.14 <sup>a</sup>	13.5 ± 0.50 <sup>a</sup>	37.4 ± 0.93 <sup>a</sup>	465 ± 1.08 <sup>d</sup>	4.79 ± 0.26 <sup>b</sup>
PDSE	7.7 ± 0.16 <sup>a</sup>	13.3 ± 0.26 <sup>a</sup>	33.4 ± 1.00 <sup>b</sup>	757 ± 2.08 <sup>b</sup>	4.97 ± 0.59 <sup>b</sup>
AgNPs	5.4 ± 0.35 <sup>b</sup>	9.20 ± 0.45 <sup>b</sup>	30.2 ± 1.18 <sup>c</sup>	971 ± 2.52 <sup>a</sup>	8.18 ± 0.68 <sup>a</sup>
AgNPs/PDSE	7.7 ± 0.14 <sup>a</sup>	12.4 ± 0.62 <sup>a</sup>	37.9 ± 0.74 <sup>a</sup>	481 ± 1.53 <sup>c</sup>	5.31 ± 0.28 <sup>b</sup>
<b>P value (one-way ANOVA)</b>	0.17	0.02	0.08	0.13	0.15

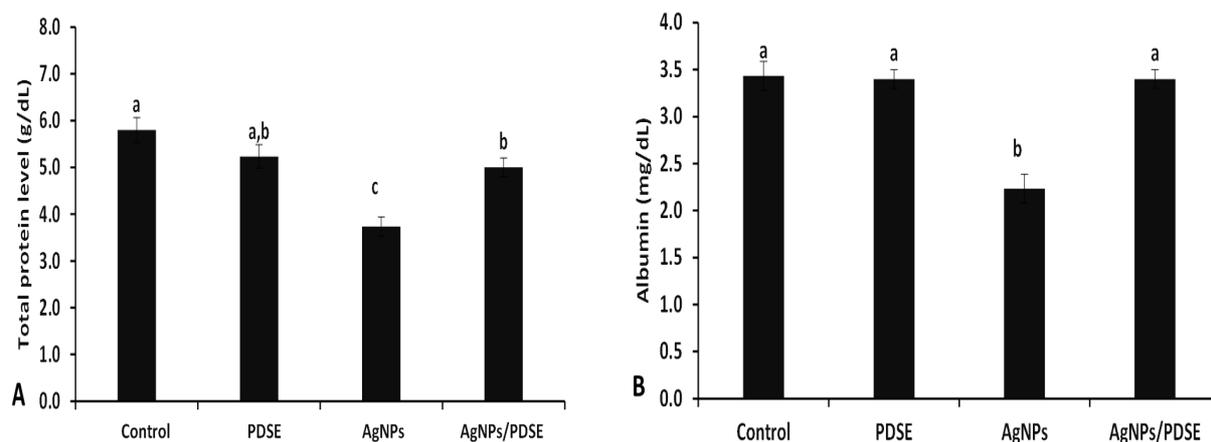
Data are mean ± SD of 3 replicates. PDSE *Phoenix dactylifera* seed extract; AgNPs silver nanoparticles; RBCs red blood cells; Hb hemoglobin; HCT hematocrit; Plat platelets; WBCs white blood cells. *P*-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. The means that do not share the same letter are significantly different.

**Table 2.** Effect of AgNPs on Alanine transaminase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) level of different groups under study.

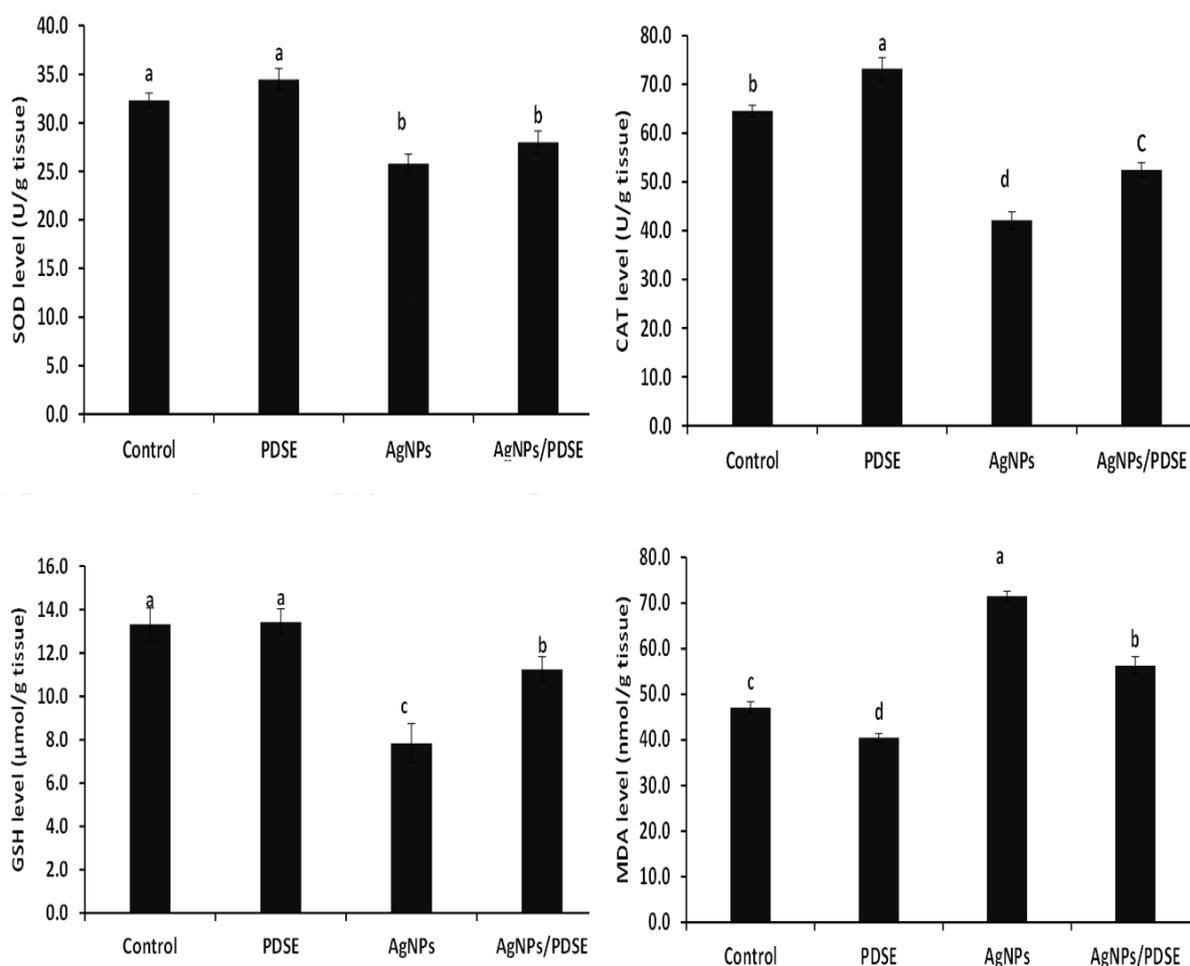
Groups	ALT (U/L)	AST (U/L)	ALP (U/L)
Control	66.00 ± 1.00 <sup>d</sup>	280.6 ± 2.08 <sup>b</sup>	295 ± 1.53 <sup>b</sup>
PDSE	75.17 ± 1.76 <sup>c</sup>	247.6 ± 1.53 <sup>c</sup>	287 ± 2.08 <sup>c</sup>
AgNPs	119.0 ± 2.00 <sup>a</sup>	399.3 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>	379 ± 2.65 <sup>a</sup>
AgNPs/PDSE	99.00 ± 1.52 <sup>b</sup>	277.0 ± 2.0 <sup>b</sup>	285 ± 2.00 <sup>c</sup>
<b>P value (one-way ANOVA)</b>	0.001	<0.001	<0.001

All data are the means of 3 replicates. The values represented mean ± SD; PDSE *Phoenix dactylifera* seed extract; AgNPs silver nanoparticles; ALT alanine transaminase; AST aspartate transaminase; ALP alkaline phosphatase. *P*-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. Means that do not share a letter are significantly different.

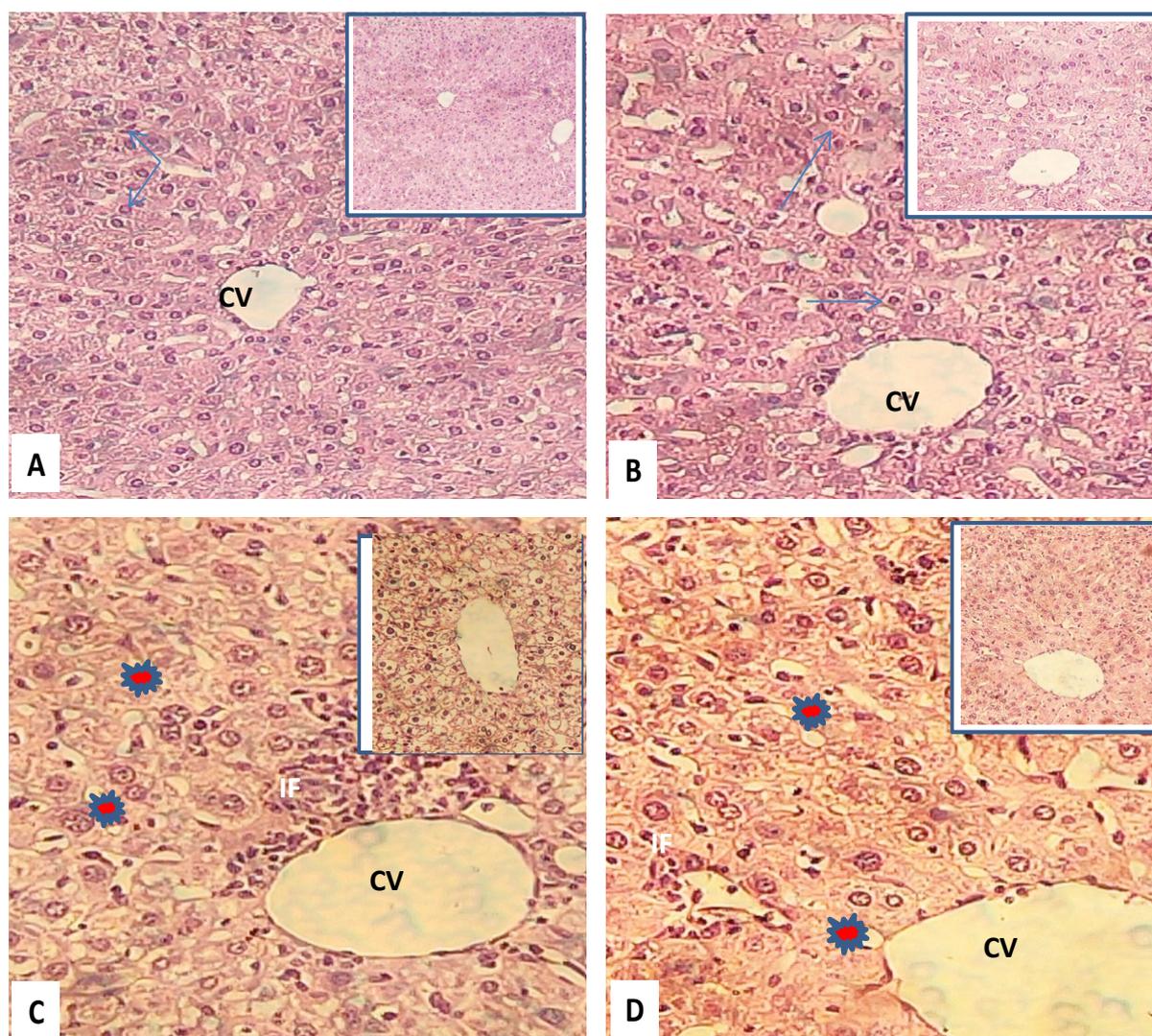
**Figure 1.** Initial and final body weight of different groups under study. Data was reported as mean±SD of five animals in each group. Comparison among groups was done using one-way ANOVA. *P*-value < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. Means that do not share a letter are significantly different.



**Figure 2.** The influence of Phoenix dactylifera seed extract (PDSE), silver nanoparticles (AgNPs), and Phoenix dactylifera seed extract (PDSE), silver nanoparticles in combination on levels of total protein and albumin. Data was reported as mean $\pm$ SD of five animals in each group. Comparison among groups was done using one-way ANOVA.  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered to be statistically significant. Means that do not share a letter are significantly different.



**Figure 3.** Effects of Phoenix dactylifera seed extract (PDSE), silver nanoparticles (AgNPs), and Phoenix dactylifera seed extract (PDSE), silver nanoparticles in combination on the activity of SOD, CAT, GSH and MDA in mice liver. Data was reported as mean $\pm$ SD of five animals in each group. Comparison among groups was done using one-way ANOVA.  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered to be statistically significant. Means that do not share a letter are significantly different.



**Figure 4.** (A) Histological section of control liver tissue showing the normal structure of the liver, central vein (CV), hepatocytes (arrow). (B) Histological section of liver tissue of PDSE mice showing normal hepatic structure. (C) Histological section of liver tissue of AgNPs mice showing irregular shape of central vein (CV), inflammatory cells (IF), apoptotic hepatocytes (arrow). (D) Histological section of liver tissue of AgNPs mice treated with PDSE showing regular hepatocytes shape cytoplasmic vacuolations (red star) and cell infiltration (IF) (H&E stain) (X100 - X400).

on bone marrow erythropoiesis. This finding was in agreement with Culling et al. (1985) who reported these alterations in RBCs may indicate effect of the Ag NPs on Hb syntheses during RBCs maturation during formation in bone marrow. Mice treated with PDSE post-AgNPs injection showed an improvement and increase in the total number of RBC, Hb level and Hct values compared with control mice. This could be due to PDSE contain high vitamins and iron levels, which have been shown to promote RBCs proliferation and Hb oxygen-carrying function, which accounts for the better effects of diabetic treatment (Afolayan and Yakubu, 2009; Okonkwo et al., 2015). Treatment of AgNPs

injected mice with PDSE significantly restored the hematological parameters to reach their normal values.

Therefore, the present finding indicates that PDSE might be able to induce a protective effect on the hematopoietic system. The present study revealed a significant increase in the total number of WBCs post-AgNPs when compared to the control group. In PDSE treated group post-AgNPs injection showed an improvement and decrease in the total number of WBC. WBCs play a crucial part in the body's immune response, serving as the first line of defence. AgNPs caused changes in the number of WBCs

(Jun et al., 2011). The essential factors for AgNPs-induced morphological changes were discovered to be lymphocyte, macrophage infiltration, despite cell degeneration, regeneration, and necrosis (Chuang et al., 2013; Yun et al., 2015). Furthermore, mice were injected with AgNPs showed an increase in the total number of platelets compared with the control group. A previous study showed that platelets were aggregate and elevate coagulation activity by AgNPs injected mice (Kim et al., 2008; Martínez-Gutierrez et al., 2012). There is a significant increase in the levels of ALT, AST and ALP in the group of mice that were injected with AgNPs. These results may be attributed to the toxic effect of AgNPs on mice bodies that can be able to influence liver functions.

According to Park et al. (2010), hepatic damage induced by intraperitoneal injection of AgNPs in mice has possibly caused severe irritation of the oxidant system in these cells. Free radicals from AgNPs attacked hepatocytes, releasing ALT contained in them and allowing it to enter the blood serum; conversely, mice's immune reaction to an external stimulus was an increase in the number of WBCs for AgNPs phagocytosis (Braydich-Stolle et al., 2005). Treatment with PDSE post-AgNPs injection, showed a significant decrease in ALT, AST and ALP levels close to the normal range. This reduction could be due to the regeneration of hepatocytes and a possible healing effect on the hepatic parenchyma (Chatterjee et al., 2011). Ansar et al. (2017) reported that the increase in AST and ALT activities after intraperitoneal administration of AgNPs in male Wistar rats. This study showed that the total protein and albumin levels were significantly decreased in the mice that were injected with AgNPs when compared to their values in control mice. Cellular uptake of different AgNPs is found to be modulated by their interactions with different components of blood, including albumin, transferrin, and IgG (Monteiro-Riviere et al., 2013). The levels of rat serum and tissue total protein were altered as a result of the AgNPs.

Furthermore, treatment of mice with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the total protein and albumin levels close to the normal range. The activities of the antioxidant enzymes

superoxide dismutase (SOD) and catalase (CAT) as well as glutathione (GSH) in the liver tissues was significantly reduced in the liver of AgNPs injected mice when compared to the control group.

These results showed that the serum level of SOD, CAT and GSH significantly reduced, which is consistent with the results of Ansar et al. (2017). Similar studies reported that AgNPs were decreased CAT activity and increased MDA levels in the liver of fish and rats which resulted in oxidative damage of the liver (Zhou et al., 2013; Adeyemi and Adewumi, 2014). Treatment with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the SOD, CAT and GSH level close to normal range. A previous study showed that Ajwa dated extract has a tissue-protective effect via free radical scavenging and antioxidant properties (Ragab et al., 2013). By contrast, there was a significant increase in the level of MDA in the mice that were injected with AgNPs. AgNPs enhanced production of MDA in hepatocyte may indicate oxidative stress (Xin et al., 2014). This result was in agreement with some other researches reported increased serum and tissue levels of MDA after AgNPs administration in rats and mice in comparison to the control non treated group (Adeyemi and Faniyan, 2014; Moradi-Sardareh et al., 2018).

Treatment of mice with PDSE post-AgNPs injection restored the MDA level close to the normal range. Additionally, the decreased MDA level associated with elevated other antioxidants in PDSE mice group may be attributed also to the wide range of phenolic compounds in that extract including p-coumaric, ferulic and sinapic acids, flavonoids and procyanidins (Al-Farsi et al., 2005). Meanwhile, treatment with PDSE to AgNPs group significantly increased the antioxidant levels SOD, CAT and GSH and decreasing MDA close to the normal rate. These might be reflecting the therapeutic effect of PDSE against AgNPs toxic effect. The protective effect of PDSE may be related to the accelerated activities of antioxidant enzymes such as CAT, SOD, GR, GST along with a significant reduction in MDA (El-Far et al., 2016; Al-Yahya et al., 2016; Hoseinifar et al., 2017; Sharifi et al., 2017).

The histological damages to the liver, kidney, skin, lung, cardiovascular system and reproductive organs have been proved in mammals exposed to AgNPs (Tang et al., 2009; Ahamed et al., 2010; Ema et al., 2017). Several studies have demonstrated that AgNPs exhibit hepatotoxicity effects in various both *in vivo* and *in vitro* models (Hussain et al., 2005; Gaiser et al., 2013). In the liver, however, most of the silver is deposited in Kupffer cells and hepatocytes (Buzea et al., 2007). Kupffer cells belong to the reticuloendothelial system and are responsible for AgNPs removal from the bloodstream (Kim et al., 2008). Hepatotoxic effects of AgNPs after entering into the cytoplasm and nuclei of the hepatocytes have been demonstrated in both *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies (Kim et al., 2008; Sung et al., 2009; Park et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2010; Gaiser et al., 2013). On the other hand, treatment with PDSE revealed marked improvement in hepatic cellularity. Hepatocytes had retained their regular shape with their basophilic cytoplasm and large centric rounded nuclei and some hepatic cells showed darkly stained pyknotic nuclei, congested blood vessels, cytoplasmic vacuolations, and cell infiltration. In another study, investigated. it can restore the altered hematological parameters, regulate liver function, modulated serum marker levels, antioxidant level and also improve histological alterations in liver tissues.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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No fund was received for this work.

### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Not applicable.

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