

**A STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF INSULIN,
NIGELLA SATIVA, AND METFORMIN ON
RETINOL BINDING PROTEIN AND
ENDOTHELIN-1 IN DIABETES**

A Thesis

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Nevein Naim Adib Fadl

**B.Sc. Zoology
M.Sc. Physiology**

**Zoology Department
Faculty of Science
Cairo University**

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دراسة تأثير كلاً من الإنسولين وحبّة البركة و الميتفورمين
على مستوى البروتين الحامل لفيتامين (أ) والإندوثيلين - ١
فى مرض السكري

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(فسيولوجى)

من

نيفين نعيم أديب فضل
ماجستير علوم (فسيولوجى)

قسم علم الحيوان
كلية العلوم
جامعة القاهرة

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“A Study of the Effect of Insulin, *Nigella sativa*, and Metformin on Retinol Binding Protein and Endothelin-1 in Diabetes”

Name of the candidate:

Nevein Naim Adib Fadl

Supervisor Committee:

Prof. Dr. Rasmy Boulos Girgis

Professor of environmental Physiology,
Zoology Dept., Faculty of Science,
Cairo University

Prof. Dr. Samir El-Deib Ibrahim

Professor of Physiology,
Zoology Dept., Faculty of Science,
Cairo University

Prof. Dr. Karima Abbas El-Shamy

Prof. & Head of Medical Physiology Dept.
National Research Centre

Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hisham El-Hefnawy

Prof. & Head of Pediatric Dept.
National Institute of Diabetes & Endocrinology

Head of Zoology Department

Prof. Dr. Kawther S. Abou El Ala

Abstract

عنوان الرسالة :

" دراسة تأثير كلا من الإنسولين وحبّة البركة والميتفورمين على مستوى البروتين الحامل لفيتامين (أ) والاندوثيلين-١ في مرض السكري"

ملخص الرسالة :

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى قياس مستوى البروتين الحامل لفيتامين-أ (RBP4) (كمؤشر للإصابة المبكرة بأمراض الكلى) ومستوى الاندوثيلين-١ (ET-1) (كمؤشر للإصابة المبكرة بأمراض الأوعية الدموية) في الأطفال المصابين بمرض السكر (٧-١٥ سنة) وأيضا قياس مستوى هرمون التستسترون لمعرفة علاقته بجرعة الأنسولين اليومية و مدة المرض . ولقد استهدفت الدراسة أيضا معرفة تأثير العلاج بكلا من عقار الميتفورمين وبذور حبة البركة (منفصلين أو مختلطين) لمدة ٤٥ يوم على هذه المؤشرات وعلى التغيرات الفسيولوجية والبيوكيميائية والهستوباثولوجية عند ذكور الجرذان البيضاء المستحدث بها مرض السكر التجريبي عن طريق حقنها بمادة الألوكسان.

أظهرت النتائج أن هناك ١٨ طفلا من بين ٤٨ طفلا مصابا بمرض السكر لديهم ميكروبروتين بعينة البول و ٣٠ طفلا ليس لديهم ميكروبروتين. وبمقارنة هاتين المجموعتين بمجموعة ضابطة من الأطفال الأصحاء وجد أن هناك زيادة في مستوى RBP4 في كلا من عينة البول والدم الخاصة بالأطفال المصابين بمرض السكر مع زيادته في مجموعة MA^{+} بالمقارنة بمجموعة MA^{-} مما يدل على ظهوره حتى قبل اكتشاف الإصابة الإكلينيكية بالكلية وهذا يعنى إمكانية إستخدامه في التشخيص المبكر لأمراض الكلى في الأطفال المصابين بمرض السكر، كذلك وجدت زيادة معنوية في مستوى ال ET-1 في مجموعة ال MA^{-} بالمقارنة بمجموعة ال MA^{+} ، مما يرجح إستخدامه كمؤشر للإصابة المبكرة بالأوعية الدموية. وأيضا سجلت الدراسة وجود انخفاض في مستوى هرمون التستسترون في مجموعة الأطفال الذكور المصابين بمرض السكر بالمقارنة بالمجموعة الضابطة مع وجود علاقة طردية مع جرعة الأنسولين والسن. ولقد أظهرت الدراسة على الجرذان المصابة بمرض السكر فاعلية بذور حبة البركة في خفض مستوى الجلوكوز والدهون و أيضا إنزيمات الكبد وال RBP4 في البول و الاندوثيلين-١ ، كما أدت أيضا إلى خفض نسبة البليروبين (الصفرا) مع احتفاظها بمعدلات أعلى قليلا من الطبيعي حيث أن هذه الزيادة تعمل كمضادات للأكسدة ، بينما لم تحدث بذور حبة البركة أي تحسن في نسبة الجليكوهيموجلوبين أو الميكروبروتين في الجرذان المصابة بمرض السكر. ولقد أظهر العلاج بعقار الميتفورمين انخفاضا في مستوى الجلوكوز و الجليكوهيموجلوبين و الكوليستيرول وال AST و الاندوثيلين-١ و لكنه لم يحدث انخفاض معنوي في مستوى الجليسيريدات الثلاثية والبليروبين (الصفرا) وال ALT وال RBP4 في البول. وعند معالجة الجرذان المصابة بمرض السكر بخليط من الميتفورمين و حبة البركة أظهر هذا الخليط فاعلية في إعادة مستوى هرمون التستسترون و التحليل النسيجي للخصية إلى معدله الطبيعي. إلا أنه على غير المتوقع لم يحدث انخفاضا معنويا في أي من مستوى الجليكوهيموجلوبين والجلوكوز و الكوليستيرول و الجليسيريدات الثلاثية و لكنه أحدث زيادة معنوية في مستوى الميكروبروتين وانخفاض معنوي حاد في نسبة البليروبين (الصفرا) والذي قد يعنى بدوره احتمالية الإصابة بأمراض القلب. ولقد أوضح التحليل النسيجي لكبد و كلي الجرذان المصابة بمرض السكر أن استخدام حبة البركة للعلاج أظهر تحسنا في الخلايا بدرجة أكبر من استخدام أيا من الخليط أو الميتفورمين.

و أخيرا فإن نتائج هذه الدراسة أوضحت أن استخدام حبة البركة و الميتفورمين كلا على حدي أفضل من استخدامهم مخلوطين في تحسين حالة مرض السكر . و هذا يطرح سؤالاً عن التداخلات الدوائية التي حدثت عند استخدام هذا الخليط في علاج مرض السكر وعن إمكانية استخدامه بجرعات مختلفة؟ مما يعنى دراسة مستقبلية لدراسة هذه التداخلات.

Title of Thesis:

“A study of the effect of insulin, *Nigella sativa*, and metformin on retinol binding protein and endothelin-1 in diabetes”

ABSTRACT:

The current work was carried out on both type 1 diabetic children (clinical) and alloxanated diabetic rats (experimental) to investigate the level of RBP4 and ET-1 as an early marker for renal impairment and angiopathy, and to evaluate the effect of metformin (antidiabetic drug) and *N.sativa* (natural antioxidant plant) on the above markers and on the diabetic state in the alloxanated diabetic rats. From forty-eight children (7-15 years) with type 1 diabetes, 18 children were microalbuminuric (MA⁺ group) and 30 children were normoalbuminuric (MA⁻ group) and these two groups are compared with 24 apparently healthy non-diabetic children.

The high levels of serum & urine RBP4 in MA⁻ type 1 diabetic children group, indicates that RBP4 could be an early marker for renal impairment even in the absence of renal impairment (MA). The significantly higher level of plasma ET-1 in MA⁻ than in MA⁺ diabetic group, may indicate that endothelial dysfunction, precedes the appearance of microalbuminuria in type 1 diabetic patients, and could be used as an early marker for diabetic microangiopathy. Level of serum testosterone was significantly reduced in the diabetic children males and showed direct correlation with age and insulin dose. Both metformin and *N.sativa* were comparable in reducing serum glucose of the diabetic rats, but *N.sativa* not only had hypoglycemic effects but also hypolipidaemic effects and it also improve the liver function and ET-1 level. Although using the mixture of metformin and *N.sativa* had improved both the level of serum testosterone and the structure of testis which turned to normal, it was less effective in improving diabetic state than using metformin or *N.sativa* alone and may increase the risk for cardiovascular disease. This may indicate that using either metformin or *N.sativa* alone is better than using them in combination. This tends to raise basic questions about the effect of interactions that may occurs on using this mixture in the treatment of diabetes, consequently, This finding need to be confirmed in a larger number of rats to explore the potential reasons for this unexpected results.

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Table (2): Comparison of the mean values of duration of diabetes, insulin dose, serum glucose, and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA_{1c}) in children with type 1 diabetes (MA⁻ and MA⁺) and apparent healthy control children.

Parameter \ Groups	Control children (n= 24)	Diabetic children	
		MA⁻ (n= 30)	MA⁺ (n= 18)
Duration of diabetes (Y)	—	A 3.20 ± 0.44	A 3.31 ± 0.57
Insulin dose (U/d)	—	A 38.40 ± 2.65	A 36.28 ± 3.29
Glucose (mg/ dl)	A 87.67 ± 1.85	B 216.93 ± 16.43	B 179.50 ± 13.10
HbA_{1c} %	A 6.25 ± 0.26	B 8.03 ± 1.05	B 8.46 ± 0.74

n : number of children

All data are represented as mean ± S.E

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference (p<0.05) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference (p>0.05).

Table (3): Comparison of the mean values of lipid profile in children with type 1 diabetes (MA⁻ and MA⁺) and apparent healthy control children.

Parameters	Groups Control children (n=24)	Diabetic children	
		MA ⁻ (n= 30)	MA ⁺ (n= 18)
Cholesterol (CH) (mg/dl)	A 171.00 ± 2.36	B 191.43 ± 6.57	B 188.50 ± 6.04
Triglycerides (T.G) (mg/dl)	A 53.33 ± 1.84	B 74.23 ± 4.30	B 67.56 ± 3.80
Total lipids (T.L) (mg/dl)	A 622.13 ± 10.85	A 632.80 ± 23.33	A 598.44 ± 20.77

n : number of children

All data are represented as mean ± S.E

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference (p<0.05) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference (p>0.05).

Table (5): Comparison of the mean values of kidney function tests in children with type 1 diabetes (MA⁻ and MA⁺) and apparent healthy control children.

Parameters	Groups Control children (n= 24)	Diabetic children	
		MA ⁻ (n= 30)	MA ⁺ (n= 18)
S.urea (mg/dL)	A 16.58 ± 0.65	B 22.53 ± 1.13	B 22.11± 1.32
U.urea (g/L)	A 18.10 ± 0.73	B 13.11 ± 1.18	B 13.95 ± 1.04
S.creatinine (mg/dl)	A 0.33 ± 0.02	B 0.27 ± 0.02	B 0.24 ± 0.02
U. creatinine (g/L)	A 1.39 ± 0.08	B 0.84±0.05	A 1.27 ± 0.16
Microalbuminuria (µg/ml)	A 15.38 ± 0.39	A 13.93 ± 0.71	B 67.83 ± 4.73

n : number of children

All data are represented as mean ± S.E

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference (p<0.05) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference (p>0.05).

Table (8): Comparison of the mean values of serum testosterone and sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG) in both males and females children with type 1 diabetes (MA⁻ and MA⁺) and apparent healthy control children.

Parameters	Control children (n= 12)	Diabetic children	
		MA⁻ (n= 15)	MA⁺ (n= 9)
Testosterone in males (ng/ml)	A 1.49 ± 0.06	B 0.26 ± 0.08	B 0.05 ± 0.01
Testosterone in females (ng/ml)	A 0.09 ± 0.02	A 0.15 ± 0.04	A 0.16 ± 0.04
SHBG in males (nmol/l)	A 27.67 ± 1.04	B 39.93 ± 3.13	AB 35.22 ± 1.42
SHBG in females (nmol/l)	A 22.92 ± 1.20	B 48.80 ± 2.25	C 32.33 ± 1.73

n : number of children

All data are represented as mean ± S.E

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference (p<0.05) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference (p>0.05).

Table (18): Comparison of lipid profile among the experimental studied groups.

Groups Parameters	normal control group (GI)	Diabetic control group (GII)	metformin group (GIII)	<i>N. Sativa</i> group (GIV)	metformin + <i>N. Sativa</i> (GV)
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	A 62.50 ± 1.37	B 78.25 ± 3.43	A 58.50 ± 4.68	A 64.17 ± 2.82	AB 70.58 ± 3.18
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	A 41.33 ± 2.80	B 81.75 ± 4.96	B 78.25 ± 3.26	C 68.17 ± 2.06	BC 75.08 ± 2.83
Total lipids (mg/dl)	AB 238.42 ± 6.21	AB 240.00 ± 9.68	AB 238.58 ± 4.26	B 217.75 ± 8.57	A 244.83 ± 14.91

Each group has 12 rats.

All data represented as mean ± SE

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference ($p > 0.05$).

Table (19): Comparison of the mean values of serum aspartate aminotransferase (s.AST), serum alanine aminotransferase (s.ALT) and total bilirubin among the different experimental studied groups.

Groups Parameters	normal control group (GI)	Diabetic control group (GII)	metformin group (GIII)	<i>N. Sativa</i> group (GIV)	metformin + <i>N. Sativa</i> (GV)
s.AST (u/l)	A 130.00 ± 4.14	B 209.58 ± 9.70	A 113.83 ± 8.35	B 189.00 ± 7.78	B 205.75 ± 9.01
s.ALT (u/l)	A 27.25 ± 1.63	B 49.83 ± 3.80	BC 44.67 ± 3.59	C 37.67 ± 2.41	B 52.00 ± 2.83
Bilirubin (mg/dl)	A 0.892 ± 0.08	B 1.608 ± 0.12	BC 1.362 ± 0.09	AC 1.177 ± 0.15	D 0.570 ± 0.06

Each group has 12 rats.

All data represented as mean ± SE

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference (p<0.05) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference (p>0.05).

Table (20): Comparison of kidney function among the different experimental studied groups.

Groups Parameters	normal control group (GI)	Diabetic control group (GII)	metformin group (GIII)	N. Sativa group (GIV)	metformin + N. Sativa (GV)
s.urea (mg/dl)	A 30.00 ± 1.73	B 78.08 ± 7.14	C 56.17 ± 3.33	B 84.58 ± 3.26	B 88.92 ± 3.29
u.urea (g/l)	A 24.00 ± 1.67	B 16.33 ± 1.08	C 20.33 ± 1.25	A 25.83 ± 1.55	C 20.08 ± 0.53
s.creatinine (mg/dl)	A 0.77 ± 0.04	B 0.99 ± 0.06	AB 0.80 ± 0.06	B 0.94 ± 0.04	B 0.96 ± 0.05
u.creatinine (g/l)	A 21.33 ± 1.86	A 17.25 ± 1.31	AB 23.58 ± 1.85	C 46.83 ± 4.49	B 28.83 ± 1.55
Microalbumin- uria (µg/ml)	A 0.218 ± 0.03	B 0.475 ± 0.04	B 0.594 ± 0.03	B 0.544 ± 0.03	C 1.446 ± 0.10

Each group has 12 rats.

All data are represented as mean ± SE

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference ($p > 0.05$).

Table (22): Comparison of serum insulin, testosterone, sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG), and plasma endothelin-1 (ET-1) among the different studied rat groups.

Groups Parameters	normal control group (GI)	Diabetic control group (GII)	metformin group (GIII)	<i>N. Sativa</i> group (GIV)	metformin + <i>N. Sativa</i> (GV)
Insulin (μIU/ml)	A 7.32 $\pm$ 0.16	AB 7.83 $\pm$ 0.37	C 10.66 $\pm$ 0.31	B 8.38 $\pm$ 0.36	E 13.36 $\pm$ 0.51
Testosterone (ng/ml)	A 0.413 $\pm$ 0.04	B 0.223 $\pm$ 0.04	C 0.783 $\pm$ 0.04	B 0.250 $\pm$ 0.04	A 0.452 $\pm$ 0.08
SHBG (nmol/l)	A 1.74 $\pm$ 0.12	A 1.66 $\pm$ 0.04	B 1.45 $\pm$ 0.05	A B 1.69 $\pm$ 0.10	A 1.76 $\pm$ 0.11
ET-1 (Pg/ml)	A 4.508 $\pm$ 0.16	B 5.300 $\pm$ 0.31	C 1.492 $\pm$ 0.16	D 2.250 $\pm$ 0.24	C 1.642 $\pm$ 0.13

Each group has 12 rats.

All data are represented as mean $\pm$ SE

Different letters at the same row mean significant difference ($p < 0.05$) between groups at the level of (0.05), common letters mean non-significant difference ($p > 0.05$).

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