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Effect of *Ginkgo Biloba* on Hypercholesterolemic Rats

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Thesis

In Partial Fulfilment of PhD. Degree in Specific Education

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Abstract

Hypercholesterolemia has been implicated in causation of coronary heart disease. *Ginkgo biloba* has been used in some countries as a hypolipidemic agent. Accordingly, this study aimed to study the effect of different doses of *Ginkgo biloba* extract (GBE) on lipid profile, liver and kidney functions in hypercholesterolemic rats. Forty eight rats were divided into six groups. The first group was fed on standard diet only as negative control. Second group was fed on hypercholesterolemic diet as positive control. The other four groups were fed on hypercholesterolemic diet for four weeks to induce hypercholesterolemia, then these groups were fed on standard diet and orally administrated different levels of GBE (25, 50, 75 and 100 mg/kg B.W/day) for 28 days. Also GBE was applied in functional food by making biscuits fortified with this extract with the four doses (25, 50, 75 and 100 mg/kg) used in this experiment. Results showed that using four levels of GBE in treating hypercholesterolemic rats led to significant improvement in lipid profile. Levels of 50, 75 and 100 GBE mg/kg B.W induced significant decrease in serum triglycerides

and cholesterol in hypercholesterolemic groups, as compared to positive control and GBE 25 mg/kg B.W groups. All treated groups with different levels of GBE produced an improvement in serum ALT, AST, uric acid and creatinine levels, as compared to positive control group. Histological examination of liver tissues indicated progress in morphological changes occurred in hypercholesterolemic rats via ingestion of GBE. It was found that biscuits supplemented with 25 mg of GBE then sample supplemented with 50 mg of GBE tended to have the best taste and overall acceptable among all supplemented samples. So it can be recommended to consume biscuits fortified with 50 mg of GBE for their health benefits and acceptability by panels.

LIST OF CONTENTS

Subjects	Page
Introduction	1
Aim of Study	3
Review of Literature:	4
• Cardiovascular diseases	4
• Dyslipidemia	5
• Alternative medicine overview	8
• Ginkgo Biloba L.	9
• Active components of Ginkgo biloba leaf	11
• Mechanism of action	12
• Pharmacological effects of Ginkgo biloba	13
• Therapeutic Effects of ginkgo biloba extract on some diseases	14
• Safety and Precautions	34
• Some applications of GBE in food products	39
Materials and Methods	41
Results and Discussion	56
Recommendations	105
Summary	106
References	113
Arabic Abstract	١
Arabic Summary	٣

LIST OF TABLES

Title	Page
Table (1) standard diet composition	42
Table (2) Composition of salt mixture	43
Table (3) The vitamin mixture composition	44
Table (4) Biscuits basic ingredients formula	54
Table (5) Weight gain (g), Feed consumption (g), and Feed Efficiency Ratio of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE)	58
Table (6) Organs weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) for 28 days	64
Table (7) Lipid profile & atherogenic index (HDL-C/TC) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) for 28 days	75
Table (8) MDA of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) for 28 days	80
Table (9) Liver functions of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) for 28 days	84
Table (10) Kidney functions of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) for 28 days	89
Table (11) Nutrition facts of biscuits	101
Table (12) Sensory evaluation of biscuits fortified with different levels of ginkgo biloba extract (GBE)	103

LIST OF FIGURES

Title	Page
Fig. (1) Body weight gain (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract	59
Fig. (2) Feed consumption (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	59
Fig. (3) Feed Efficiency Ratio of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	60
Fig. (4) Liver weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract	65
Fig. (5) Heart weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	65
Fig. (6) Lung weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	66
Fig. (7) Spleen weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract	66
Fig. (8) Testes weight (g) of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	67
Fig. (9) Cholesterol of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	67
Fig. (10) Triglycerides of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	67

Title	Page
Fig. (11) VLDL-C of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	77
Fig. (12) HDL-C of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	77
Fig. (13) LDL-C of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	78
Fig. (14) Atherogenic index of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	78
Fig. (15) MDA of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	81
Fig. (16) ALT of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	85
Fig. (17) AST of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	85
Fig. (18) Serum urea of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	90
Fig. (19) Serum uric Acid of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	90
Fig. (20) Serum creatinine of rats fed on different levels of ginkgo biloba extract.	91
Fig. (21) Sensory evaluation of biscuits fortified with different levels of GBE	104

LIST OF PHOTOS

Title	Page
Photo (1) <i>Ginkgo biloba L.</i>	9
Photo (2) <i>Ginkgo biloba L.</i>	9
Photo (3) Liver of rat from negative control group showing the normal histological structure of hepatic lobule (H & E X 400).	94
Photo (4) Liver of rat from positive control group showing macrovesicular steatosis of hepatocytes and mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration (H & E X 400).	94
Photo (5) Liver of rat from positive control group showing macrovesicular steatosis of hepatocytes with fibroblasts proliferation and collagen fibers deposition (H & E X 400).	95
Photo (6) Liver of rat from positive control group showing macrovesicular steatosis of hepatocytes and mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration (H & E X 400).	95
Photo (7) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 25 mg/kg showing Kupffer cells activation and small vacuoles in the cytoplasm of sporadic hepatocytes (H & E X 400).	96
Photo (8) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 25 mg/kg showing fatty change of small focal hepatocytes (H & E X 400).	96

Title	Page
Photo (9) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 25 mg/kg showing apparent normal hepatocytes (H & E X 400).	97
Photo (10) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 25 mg/kg showing Kupffer cells activation and slight congestion of hepatic sinusoids (H & E X 400).	97
Photo (11) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 50 mg/kg showing no histopathological changes (H & E X 400).	98
Photo (12) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 50 mg/kg showing Kupffer cells activation (H & E X 400).	98
Photo (13) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 75 mg/kg showing fatty change of sporadic hepatocytes (H & E X 400).	99
Photo (14) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 75 mg/kg showing slight activation of Kupffer cells (H & E X 400).	99
Photo (15) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 100 mg/kg showing no histopathological changes (H & E X 400).	100
Photo (16) Liver of rat from group fed GBE 100 mg/kg showing Kupffer cells activation and small vacuoles in the cytoplasm of sporadic hepatocytes (H & E X 400).	100

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
AD	Alzheimer's disease
ALP	Alkaline phosphatase
ALT	Aspartate Amine Transferase
AST	Alanine Amine Transferase
A β	Amyloid beta peptide
CAD	Coronary artery disease
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
GBE	Ginkgo biloba extract
GBLP	Ginkgo biloba leaf polysaccharide
HDL-C	High density lipoprotein cholesterol
HFD	High fat diet
LDL-C	Low density lipoprotein cholesterol
MDA	Malonalialdehyde
NAFLD	Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
ROS	reactive oxygen species
T.G	Triglycerides
T.C	Total cholesterol
VLDL-C	Very low density lipoprotein cholesterol
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

Every day, thousands of people have heart attacks and strokes, and more than 1 million others continue to live with various forms of rheumatic and congestive heart disease (**Nix, 2013**). Of all causes of death, coronary heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the leaders (**AHA, 2010**).

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that 17.5 million people die each year from CVDs, an estimated 31% of all deaths worldwide (**WHO, 2016**). More than 75% of CVD deaths occur in low-income and middle-income countries. Up to 80% of all CVD deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes (**WHO, 2015**).

Hyperlipidemia is acknowledged to be a major risk factor for cardiovascular events. The major component of total serum cholesterol that is associated with increased risk is low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c). In contrast, there is an inverse relationship between symptomatic atherosclerosis and high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c) levels (**Dominiczak, 1998; NCEP, 2001**).

NCEP (2001) guidelines stated that lowering LDL cholesterol is the primary objective of coronary heart disease risk reduction. Consequently, there is increasing demand for a medical treatment for this problem.

The Ginkgo biloba extract (GBE) has been reported to

have a wide range of health benefits in traditional Chinese medicine (**Cheng *et al.*, 2013**). Since the early 1990s, extract of Ginkgo leaves, has become the most popularly used dietary supplement for treating vascular circulation problems and improving memory (**Lim *et al.*, 2011**).

In Chinese folk medicine the leaves of Ginkgo biloba are used for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases and to alleviate asthma (**Gupta and Jain, 2006**).

Ginkgo biloba L. (Ginkgoaceae), known as the ‘maidenhair tree’, is the best-selling herbal remedy in the USA. Traditionally, the fruits and seeds of Ginkgo have been used in Oriental medicine to improve chronic cough or enuresis. Since the early 1990s, a standardized extract of Ginkgo leaves, has become the most popularly used dietary supplement for treating vascular circulation problems and improving memory (**Lim *et al.*, 2011**). Ginkgo biloba extract functions as a natural substantial antioxidant and hypolipidemic (**Yao *et al.*, 2007**).

Phytochemical studies have shown that the leaves of *Ginkgo biloba* contain active components including terpenoids (ginkgolides, bilabolide), flavonoids (catechins, flavones, biflavones) flavonols (kaempferol, quercetin or isorhamnetin), steroids (sitosterol, stigmasterol) and carotenoids (**Woerdenbag and Van Beek, 1997**).