

دراسة مقارنة على مؤشرات وراثية وخلوية وجزيئية للتسمم بالمعادن
الثقيلة في فئران المعمل (مس ماسكيولس)

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**Comparative study on cytogenetic and
molecular biomarkers of
heavy metal toxicity in the laboratory mice
(*Mus Musculus*)**

A Thesis

**Submitted to Faculty of Science, Cairo University
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of
M.Sc. In Zoology
(Genetics)**

By

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Heavy metal toxicity in the laboratory mice (*Mus musculus*)"**

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TO

My Family

My Husband

And

My daughters

Hala and Jana

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Contents

	Page
List of tables	V
List of figures	VI
Abstract	IX
Chapter I: Introduction and aim of work	۱
Chapter II: Literature review	۴
۲,۱. The genetic biomarkers	۴
۲,۱,۱. Cytogenetic biomarkers	۵
۲,۱,۲. Molecular biomarkers	۶
a. The hybridization-based markers	۷
b. The PCR-based markers	۸
۲,۲. Heavy metals	۹
۲,۲,۱. Cadmium.	۱۰
A. Physical properties	۱۰
B. Existing and using	۱۰
C. Cadmium exposure	۱۰
D. Absorption and distribution	۱۱
E. Metabolism	۱۳
F. Excretion	۱۳
G. Toxicity	۱۴
H. Genotoxicity	۱۵
H.۱. Prokaryotic	۱۵
H.۲. <i>In vitro</i>	۱۶
H.۲.۱. Human blood lymphocytes	۱۶
H.۲.۲. Another mammalian cells	۱۶
H.۳. <i>In vivo</i>	۱۷
H.۳.۱. In human	۱۷
H.۳.۲. In animal	۱۷
I- Carcinogenicity	۱۹
I.۱. In human	۱۹
I.۲. In animal	۲۰

	Page
۲,۲,۲. Lead	۲۱
A. Physical properties	۲۱
B. Existing and using	۲۱
C. Lead exposure	۲۲
D. Absorption and distribution	۲۲
E. Metabolism	۲۴
F. Excretion	۲۴
G. Toxicity	۲۴
H. Genotoxicity	۲۵
H.۱. Prokaryotic	۲۵
H.۲. <i>In vitro</i>	۲۷
H.۲.۱. Human blood lymphocytes	۲۶
H.۲.۲. Another mammalian cell	۲۶
H.۳. <i>In vivo</i>	۲۷
H.۳.۱. In human	۲۷
H.۳.۲. In Animal	۲۸
I- Carcinogenicity	۲۹
I.۱. In human	۲۹
I.۲. In animal	۲۹
۲,۳. Metallothioneins	۳۰
CHAPTER ۳: Materials and methods	۳۴
۳,۱. Experimental animals	۳۴
۳,۲. Test substances	۳۴
۳,۳. Determination of the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) or LD.	۳۵
۳,۳,۱. Cadmium chloride	۳۵
۳,۳,۲. Lead acetate	۳۵
۳,۴. Treatment schedule	۳۵
۳,۴,۱. Acute treatment	۳۵
a) Cadmium chloride	۳۵
b) Lead acetate	۳۵
۳,۴,۲. Subchronic treatment	۳۵
a) Cadmium chloride	۳۶
b) Lead acetate	۳۶

	Page
۳,۵. Animal groups	۳۶
۳,۶. Cytogenetic assay	۳۷
۳,۶,۱. Micronucleus test	۳۷
a- Slide preparation	۳۷
b- Scoring	۳۸
c- Statistical analysis	۳۸
۳,۷. Molecular assay	۳۸
۳,۷,۱. PCR/RFLP assay	۳۸
A. DNA extraction	۳۸
I. Cell lysis	۳۹
II. Protein precipitation	۳۹
III. DNA precipitation	۳۹
IV. DNA hydration	۳۹
B. DNA quantification	۳۹
C. Amplification by Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the mouse MT- Igene from the genomic DNA	۴۰
I. PCR primers	۴۱
II. PCR mixture	۴۱
III. Amplification condition	۴۱
D. Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP)	۴۲
I. Selected endonucleases enzymes	۴۲
II. Digestion of PCR product	۴۲
E. Separation of the digested polymerase chain reaction (PCR) products by electrophoresis	۴۳
۳,۸. Reagents	۴۴
CHAPTER ۴: Results	۴۷
۴,۱. Determination of the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) or LD _{۵۰}	۴۷
۴,۱,۱. Cadmium chloride	۴۷
۴,۱,۲. Lead acetate	۴۸
۴,۲. Micronucleus Assay	۴۹
۴,۲,۱. The effects of acute and subacute administration of cadmium chloride and lead acetate on the frequency of Micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes (MNPCEs)	۴۹

in bone marrow cells of mice

	Page
ξ,ϒ,ϑ,ϑ. Cadmium chloride	εϑ
a- Acute treatment	εϑ
b- Subchronic treatment	εϑ
ξ,ϒ,ϑ,ϒ. lead acetate	ο.
a- Acute treatment	ο.
b- Subchronic treatment	ο.
ξ,ϒ,ϒ. The effects of acute and subacute administration of cadmium chloride and lead acetate on the ratio of PCEs/NCEs in bone marrow cells of mice	ο.
ξ,ϒ,ϒ,ϑ. Cadmium chloride	ο.
a- Acute treatment	οϑ
b- Subchronic treatment	οϑ
ξ,ϒ,ϒ,ϒ. lead acetate	οϑ
a-Acute treatment	οϑ
b- Subchronic treatment	οϑ
ξ,ϒ.RFLP/PCR assay	
CHAPTER V. Discussion	ϑϑ
ο,ϑ. Micronucleus test as a cytogenetic biomarker	ϑϑ
ο,ϒ. RFLP/PCR as a molecular biomarker	ϒϑ
Summary	ϒε
References	ϒϒ
Arabic Summary	
Arabic Abstract	

LIST OF TABLES

Table No.		Page
١	The effects of acute and subacute administration of cadmium chloride and lead acetate on the frequency of Micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes (MNPCEs) in bone marrow cells of mice.	٥٤
٢	The effects of acute and subacute administration of cadmium chloride and lead acetate on the ratio of PCEs/NCEs in bone marrow cells of mice.	٥٦

List of Figures

Fig. No.		Page
1	Determination of i.p MTD of cadmium chloride in male mice	47
2	Determination of i.p MTD of lead acetate in male mice	48
3	Bone marrow smear of mouse showing micronucleated polychromatic erythrocyte (MNPCE)	53
4	Fold-change from negative control of micronucleated polychromatic erythrocytes (MNPECs) in the different experimental groups	55
5	Fold-change from negative control of polychromatic erythrocytes (PCEs) per 1000 erythrocytes in the different experimental groups	57
6	Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with Bgl II M: marker ØX 136 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 4, 5: single i.p. injection with 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 6, 7, 8: single i.p. injection with 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 9, 10, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate	60
7	Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with Bcl I. M: marker ØX 136 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 4, 5: single i.p. injection with 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 6, 7, 8: single i.p. injection with 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 9, 10, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 100 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate	61
8	Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene	62

of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with Pst I M: marker ØX 194 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 6, 9: single i.p. injection with 2,0 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 4, 7, 10: single i.p. injection with 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 161,0 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 5, 8, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 8 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 9 | Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with BalI M: marker ØX 194 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 6, 9: single i.p. injection with 2,0 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 4, 7, 10: single i.p. injection with 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 161,0 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 5, 8, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 8 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate. | 63 |
| 10 | Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with Hind III M: marker ØX 194 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 6, 9: single i.p. injection with 2,0 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 4, 7, 10: single i.p. injection with 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 161,0 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 5, 8, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 8 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate. | 64 |
| 11 | Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with BamH I M: marker ØX 194 RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 6, 9: single i.p. injection with 2,0 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 333 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 4, 7, 10: single i.p. injection with 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 161,0 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 5, 8, 11: multiple i.p. injections with 10 X 1,20 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 10 X 8 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate | 65 |
| 12 | Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene | 66 |

of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with Nco I M: marker $\text{ØX } 1\text{ kb}$ RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 4, 5: single i.p. injection with 2, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 2, 5 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 6, 7, 8: single i.p. injection with 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 9, 10: multiple i.p. injections with 1 X 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 1 X 1 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate

13

Agarose gel electrophoresis of PCR products of MT-1 gene of mice treated with cadmium chloride (A) or lead acetate (B) and digested with EcoRI M: marker $\text{ØX } 1\text{ kb}$ RF DNA Hae III Lane 1: untreated and undigested liver DNA(-ve control), lane 2: untreated and digested liver DNA, lanes 3, 4, 5: single i.p. injection with 2, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 2, 5 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 6, 7, 8: single i.p. injection with 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate, lanes 9, 10: multiple i.p. injections with 1 X 1, 5 mg/kg b.w. cadmium chloride or 1 X 1 mg/kg b.w. lead acetate

14

ABSTRACT

The induction of micronuclei in mice bone marrow cells and point mutation at the restriction sites of ^ different restriction enzymes, five cutters(BalI , BclI, BglII, HindIII and PstI) and three non cutters (BamHI, EcoRI and NcoI) of mice MT-I gene were investigated.

Cadmium chloride was administered to adult male mice as single i.p. dose of 2,0 and 1,20 mg/kg b.w. and as repeated i.p doses of 1,20 mg/kg b.w. for 4 week at 24h intervals. CdCl₂ induced a significant and dose-dependent increase in the percentage of MNPCEs reached 2,86 % with the highest tested dose compared with negative control.

On the other hand administration of lead acetate doses of 323 and 161,0 mg/kg b.w. single i.p injection and 8 mg/kg b.w. as repeated i.p. doses for 4 week at 24h intervals had induced a significantly higher MN frequency than negative control.

Null point mutation induction was detected using PCR/RFLP method after different treatments with the two tested doses of cadmium chloride or lead acetate.

In conclusion, results of the present work indicated that cadmium chloride and lead acetate induced significant cytogenetic and cytotoxic effects in mice bone marrow cells with no point mutation in MT-I gene at the restriction sites of the restriction enzymes used. Thus it may be concluded that MN assay can serve as a better preliminary biomarker that reflects cadmium and lead exposure.

However, further investigation is needed to evaluate other molecular assays to detect mutations that may be produced by heavy metals.

Chapter I

Introduction and aim of the work

Heavy metals are found in increasingly hazardous concentrations in air, food, and water. Agency for toxic substances and disease registry (**ATSDR, 1999**) lists cadmium and lead among the top of the 270 most hazardous substances in the environment which have been identified as the most probable causes of heavy metal-related disease observed in primary care medicine.

As a class heavy metals can either be mutagenic by themselves or can enhance the mutagenic effect of other agents (**Minissi and Lombi, 1997**).

Cadmium is a toxic heavy metal of continuing occupational and environmental concern. Cadmium exposure mainly occurs in industrial settings, however, cigarette smokes and Cd-contaminated water, air and food are other non-occupational sources of human exposure to cadmium. It has wide variety of adverse effects and it has been classified as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the US National Toxicology Program (**Rossman et al., 1992 and Who and Lyon, 1993**). Moreover, it's clearly a potent multi-tissue animal carcinogen (**Schimada et al., 1976; Vikina et al., 1978; Who and Lyon, 1993**). The mechanisms of the carcinogenic activity of cadmium are not clearly defined but may involve non-genotoxic or indirect genotoxic events since cadmium is, in general, a weak mutagen (**Dzhokhadze and Lezhava, 1994**).

Several *in vitro* studies have shown that cadmium produces DNA strand breaks, DNA–protein cross-links and oxidative DNA damage mostly at high cytotoxic concentrations (**Deknudt and Gerber, 1979; Forni, 1992**).

However, reports regarding the *in vitro* induction of chromosomal aberrations by cadmium compounds or the data obtained from *in vivo* assays were contradictory.