

Possible Protective Effect of Thymoquinone (Active Ingredient of Nigella Sativa) in the Treatment of Experimental Diabetic Neuropathy

THESIS

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Abstract

Background Neuropathy is the most common and debilitating complication of diabetes and encompasses a variety of forms whose impact ranges from discomfort to death. Hyperglycemia induces oxidative stress in diabetic neurons and results in activation of multiple biochemical pathways such as the polyol pathway; the hexosamine pathway; excess/inappropriate activation of protein kinase C (PKC) isoforms; accumulation of advanced glycation endproducts (AGE). Thus the use of an antioxidant, will be promising as a preventive therapy against the deleterious effects of D.N., and therefore in the current study we chose TQ as a potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory drug from a natural source.

Objective The objective of this work was to explore the possible protective effect of TQ against the deteriorating functional nerve parameters in D.N. In addition, to test the modulation of inflammatory pathways such as NF- κ B and p38 M.A.P.K by TQ in the pathogenesis of D.N.

Methwds Our study was done on 60 male albino rats. These rats were divided into the following groups, each group consisted of 10 rats:

Group 1: Control group - **Group 2:** Thymoquinone group - **Group 3:** Diabetic Neuropathy group - **Group 4:** Diabetic Neuropathy treated with thymoquinone. - **Group 5:** Diabetic Neuropathy treated with insulin - **Group 6:** Diabetic Neuropathy treated with Insulin and Thymoquinone.

Furthermore, this study proofed that TQ exerts a partial protective effect on nerve injury in experimental D.N. Current results also demonstrated that a combination of both insulin and TQ resulted in the best protection against the deteriorating nerve functions in D.N. The synergistic effect of both drugs, targeting wide varieties of pathophysiological mechanisms in D.N. model has been observed.

Concluaion

It can be concluded form this study that TQ exerted a partial protective effect on nerve injury in experimental D.N., possibly through its anti- oxidant or anti-

inflammatory actions. Our data also demonstrated that the combined effect of both insulin and TQ offered the best protection against D.N. possibly due to their synergistic action against the pathophysiology of D.N.

Key word : Diabebtes / Neuropathy /
Thymoqwone

Contents:

List of Tables.....	i
List of Figures.....	iv
List of Abbreviations.....	vi.
Review of Literature.....	
Introduction.....	1
Diabetes Mellitus.....	3
Diabetic Neuropathy.....	12
Nuclear Factor Kappa B.....	35
P38 MAPK.....	38
Thymoquinone.....	40
Materials and Methods.....	50
Results	68
Discussion.....	104
Summary.....	117
Refrences.....	120
Arabic Summary.....	

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List of Tables:

A. Tables of Review:

Table I: Etiologic classification of diabetes mellitus.....	3
Table II: Diagnostic thresholds for diabetes and impaired glucose regulation.....	5
Table III: Classification of diabetic neuropathy.....	13
Table IV: Toronto clinical scoring system for DSPN.....	25

B. Tables of Material and Methods:

Table I: Reagents of glucose kit.....	53
Table II: Prepared solutions of glucose kit.....	54
Table III: Components of RT-PCR kit.....	58
Table IV: Primer Sequences of p38 MAPK, NF- κ B, and β -actin.....	60
Table V: Master mix for cDNA amplification.....	61

C. Tables of Results:

Table 1: Results of serum glucose in Control group.....	68
Table 2: Results of electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in Control group.....	69
Table 3: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve in Control group.....	70
Table 4: Results of serum glucose in D.N. group:.....	70
Table 5: Result of Electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in D.N. group.....	71
Table 6: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve in D.N. group.....	72
Table 7: Results of serum glucose in T.Q. group.....	72
Table 8: Result of Electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in T.Q. group.....	73

Table 9: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve in T.Q. group	74
Table 10: Results of serum glucose in D.N. & Insulin group.....	74
Table 11: Result of Electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in D.N. & Insulin group..	75
Table 12: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve of D.N. & Insulin group.....	76
Table 13: Results of serum glucose in D.N. & T.Q. group.....	76
Table 14: Result of Electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in D.N. & T.Q. group.....	77
Table 15: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve of D.N. & T.Q. group.....	78
Table 16: Results of serum glucose in D.N., Insulin & T.Q. group.....	78
Table 17: Results of Electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in D.N., Insulin & T.Q. group.....	79
Table 18: Results of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in sciatic nerve of D.N., Insulin & T.Q.....	80
Table 19: Comparison between all the studied parameters in control group and D.N. group.....	81
Table 20: Comparison between all the studied parameters in control group and T.Q. group.....	82
Table 21: Comparison between Control group, D.N. group and D.N.& Insulin group.....	83
Table 22: Comparison between Control group, D.N. group and D.N.& T.Q. group.....	85
Table 23: Comparison between Control group , D.N. group and D.N., Insulin & T.Q. group.....	87
Table 24: Comparison between D.N. & Insulin, D.N. & T.Q. and D.N., Insulin & T.Q group.....	89
Table 25: Cumulative table showing mean \pm S.D. of serum glucose in the 6 studied groups.....	91

Table 26: Cumulative table showing mean \pm S.E. of electrophysiological parameters & tail flick latency in the 6 studied groups.....	93
Table 27: Cumulative table showing mean \pm S.E. of NF- κ B and P38 MAPK gene expression in Sciatic nerve in the 6 studied groups.....	100

List of Figures:

<u>List of Figures In Review:</u>	<u>Page:</u>
Figure 1: Pathogenesis of diabetic neuropathy.....	15
Figure 2: Polyol Pathway.....	16
Figure 3: Chemical structure of the active ingredients: TQ, DTQ, THY, and THQ, in the oil of N. sativa seed	41

List of figures in Materials and Methods:

Figure 1: Nerve Chamber and the stimulating and recording electrodes.....	63
Figure 2: Powerlab 4/25 and Bio AMP amplifier.....	64
Figure 3: Maximal Compound Action Potential.....	65
Figure 4: Plastic animal restrainer.....	66

List of Figures in Results:

Figure 1: Serum glucose level in all the studied groups.....	92
Figure 2: Tail flick latency in all the studied groups.....	95
Figure 3: M.C.A.P. in all the studied groups	96
Figure 4: C.V. in all the studied groups	97
Figure 5: R.R.P. in all the studied groups.....	98
Figure 6: Chronaxie in all the studied groups.....	99
Figure 7: NF- κ B gene expression in all the studied groups.....	101
Figure 8: An agarose gel electrophoresis showing PCR products of NF- κ B gene expression.	101

Figure 9: P38 MAPK gene expression in all the studied groups.....	102
Figure 10: An agarose gel electrophoresis show PCR products of P38 MAPK gene expression.....	102
Figure 11: An agarose gel electrophoresis show PCR products of beta actin gene expression in the different studied groups.....	103

List of Abbreviations

- ADA: American Diabetes Association
- AGE: Advanced Glycation Endproducts
- ALEs: Advanced Lipoxygenation Endproducts
- ALT: Alanine aminotransferase
- AP: Alkaline Phosphatase
- AR: Aldose Reductase
- ARIs: Aldose Reductase inhibitors
- AST: Aspartate aminotransferase
- Bcl-2: B-cell lymphoma protein-2
- CCl₄: Carbon tetrachloride
- CGRP: Calcitonin Gene Related Peptide
- CNS: Central Nervous System
- COX-2: Cyclooxygenase-2
- CRP: C-Reactive protein
- CV: Conduction Velocity
- CVD: Cardiovascular Disease
- DAG: Diacylglycerol
- DAN: Diabetic Autonomic Neuropathy
- DCs: Dendritic cells
- DKA: Diabetic Ketoacidosis
- DN: Diabetic Neuropathy
- DOX: Doxorubicin

- DPN: Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy
- Drp 1: Dynamin related protein 1
- DSPN: Distal Symmetric Polyneuropathy
- DTQ: Dithymoquinone
- EAE: Allergic Encephalomyelitis
- EDHF: Endothelial Derived Hyperpolarizing Factor
- EGF: Epidermal Growth Factor
- EMG: Electromyography
- eNOS: Endothelial Nitric Oxide synthase
- ET-1: Endothelin 1
- FPG: Fasting Plasma Glucos
- GAD: Glutamate Decarboxylase
- GDM: Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
- GLA: Gamma linoleic acid
- GSH: Reduced glutathione
- Hb: Haemoglobin
- HbA1C: Glycosylated Haemoglobin
- HHcy: Hyperhomocysteinemia
- HLA: Human Leucocytic Antigen
- HSP: Heat Shock Protein
- i.p. Intraperitoneal
- ICAMs: Intracellular adhesion molecules
- IENF: Intraepidermal nerve fibers
- IFG: Impaired Fasting Glucose

- IGF-1: Insulin like Growth Factor 1
- IGT: Impaired Glucose Tolerance
- IIDM: Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus
- IKK: Inhibitor for Nuclear Factor κ B kinase
- IL-6: Interleukin-6
- INF- γ : Interferon- γ
- iNOS: Inducible Nitric Oxide synthase
- IU: Internation Unit
- I κ B: Inhibitor for Nuclear Factor κ B
- KBrO₃: Potassium bromate
- LO: Lipooxygenase
- LPD: Lipid peroxide
- LPS: Lipopolysacchride
- LT: Leukotriens
- MAPKs: Mitogen Activated Protein Kinases
- MCAP: Maximal Compound Action Potential
- MHC: Major Histocompatibility Complex
- MQ: Macrophage
- NCS: Nerve Conduction Studies
- NCV: Nerve Conduction Velocity
- NDDG: National Diabetes Data Group
- NF- κ B: Nuclear Factor kappa B
- NGF: Nerve Growth Factor
- NGF: Nerve Growth Factor

- NIH: National Institute of Health
- NIIDM: Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus
- NK: Natural Killer cells
- NO: Nitric Oxide
- NS: Nigella Sativa
- NT-3: Neurotrophin 3
- OGTT: Oral Glucose Tolerance Test
- PAD: Peripheral Arterial Disease
- PAI-1: Platelet Activator Inhibitor-1
- PARP: Poly ADP-ribose polymerase pathway
- PBMC: Peripheral blood mononuclear cells
- PGE: Prostaglandins
- PKC: Protein Kinase C
- PKCi: Protein Kinase C inhibitors
- PNS: Peripheral Nervous System
- PZI: Protamine Zinc Insulin
- QST: Quantitative Sensory Testing
- RAGE: Receptors for Advanced Glycation Endproducts
- RBC: Red blood cells
- RNS: Reactive Nitrogen Species
- ROS: Reactive Oxygen Species
- RRP: Relative Refractory Period
- SOD: Superoxide dismutase
- STZ: Streptozotocin

- SWMT: Semmes-Weinstein Monofilament Test
- TGF- α : Transforming Growth Factor α
- TGF- β : Transforming Growth Factor β
- THQ: Thymohydroquinone
- THY: Thymol
- TNF- α : Tumor Necrosis Factor- α
- TQ: Thymoquinone
- Trk: Tyrosine Kinase receptor
- VCAM: Vascular cell adhesion molecule
- VEGF: Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
- VPT: Vibration Perception Threshold
- WBC: White blood cells