



Hypoglycemic Effect of *Salvia officinalis* L. Extracts on Induced Diabetic Rabbits

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Abstract : This study investigating the hypoglycemic effect of *Salvia officinalis* L. extracts on diabetic Rabbits induced by alloxan and estimated of some biochemical parameters related to oxidative stress. Three groups of six rabbits were used in this study. Group 1 received normal saline orally and considered as a control group, Group 2 was a diabetic group which received a single dose of alloxan 100mg/kg b.w (i.p) and Group3 was a treatment group, received alloxan(100mg/kg b.w.) then treated with 500mg/kg b.w orally of hot extract for four weeks every day. Some parameters such as Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, malondialdehyde (MDA) and lipid peroxidation were measured as well as the blood glucose levels. *Salvia officinalis* L. hot extract has decreased blood glucose levels and increased the activity of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase in the group 3 compared to the group 2. While the study improved that MDA and lipid peroxidation levels were lower in the treatment group compared with diabetic group.

Keywords: *Salvia officinalis*, Alloxan, Diabetes Mellitus, Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, Lipid Peroxidation, Malondialdehyde.

Introduction:

Diabetes is a metabolic disorder in which the pancreas in the human body fails to produce insulin, or is unable to use the insulin produced in an effective manner.¹ Diabetes mellitus can be classified in different ways but one form of classification is as follows (American Diabetes Association, 2004): type I diabetes (Insulin dependent) is due to immune mediated beta-cells destruction, leading to insulin deficiency, Idiopathic diabetes is the type I diabetes with no known etiologies and is strongly inherited, type II diabetes (Non-Insulin dependent) is due to an insulin secretory defect and insulin resistance and Gestational diabetes mellitus is any form of intolerance to glucose with onset or first recognition of pregnancy².

Diabetes may be induced by some drugs such as Streptozotocine and Alloxan. Alloxan {(2,4,5,6)tetraoxyhexa hydro pyrimidine} is one of the widely used models to induce diabetes mellitus within the experimental animals. It has been found to be selectively toxic to duct gland beta cells because it preferentially accumulates in the beta cells as glucose analogues. Additionally, the cytotoxic action of Alloxan is mediated mainly by the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS)³.

Salvia is the largest genus of plants in the Lamiaceae family. The name *Salvia officinalis* derives from the Latin 'salveo', which means "to be saved". *Salvia officinalis* L. (Lamiaceae, common sage) is a medicinal aromatic plant that grows in Portugal as well known for its medical properties. Sage enjoys the reputation of being a panacea⁴. It's having the ability to protect the body against oxidative stress, free radical damages, angiogenesis, inflammation, bacterial and virus infection⁵. Sage tea was effective in the improvement of lipid profile, antioxidant defenses and lymphocyte⁶ It has been proposed as effective against cardiovascular

diseases, brain and nervous disorders, various infections and digestion problems⁷.

Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD), an enzyme expressed in most human tissues is important in the generation of reduced glutathione - a key product in the control of oxidative stress. A low activity of this enzyme in red blood cells leads to Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G-6-PDD). This disease has been overlooked as one of the causes of increased oxidative stress a risk factor for diabetes mellitus a disease which is a threat to the health of many populations⁸. While oxidative stress is a condition in which the cellular production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) exceeds the physiological capacity of the antioxidant defense system. Hyperglycemia is one of the most important factors that are responsible for oxidative stress and the production of ROS in diabetes⁹. MDA is important in the late complications of diabetes mellitus because it contributes to the stiffening of various tissues like cardiovascular tissue¹⁰.

Materials and methods:

Collection of Plant Samples:

The plant materials were brought from local markets in Hilla, the leaves of plant were washed in tap water and dried, then used to create the aqueous and ethanolic extracts that analyzed.

Preparation of the Extracts:

The ethanolic extract, (cold and hot) aqueous extracts were made according to¹¹.

Phytochemical Constituents:

Chemical tests were organized on the ethanolic extract, aqueous extracts of the plant sample using standard methods. The investigation of phytochemical constituents involved:

1. **Qualitative Study:** It is based on the change the color of the samples^{12, 13}.
2. **Quantitative Study:** It is based on the precipitation of the sample using standard methods¹⁴.

Determination of the Active Time and Active Dose:

To determine the active dose and active time for the best phytochemical analysis results of extract (ethanolic and hot extracts) of *Salvia Officinalis* L. required 12 rabbits that be divided the animals as shown in the Table (1)

Table (1): The Categories of Experimental Animals According to Active Dose and Time

Type of Extract	No. of Rabbits	The Dose mg /kg
Hot Extract	3	100
	3	200
	3	500
Ethanolic Extract	3	100
	3	200
	3	500
Control	3	Normal Saline

Experimental Design to Study the Hypoglycemic Effect:

Eighteen rabbits of body weight between 500 and 1900 kg were used for the test. The 18 rabbits were fed exclusively on fodder and water to drink and they received no other medication at the time outside of the extract. They were randomly divided into three groups of 6 rabbits treated as follows:

- Group 1 the control group.
- Group 2 considered as a diabetic group and received 100 mg/kg b.w of alloxan (i.p) as a single dose.

- Group3 (the treatment group) received alloxan100mg/kg b.w. Then, treated with 500mg/kg b.w of hot extract for 4 weeks orally every day.

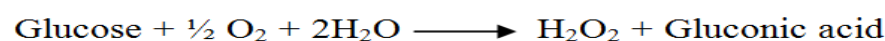
Determination of Biochemical Parameters

To assay blood glucose, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, MDA and lipid peroxidation in rabbits, we collected blood of these animals from the marginal ear vein, and the blood is collected in dry test tubes and anticoagulant (EDTA for glucose) and then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes and the serum were decanted and stored for the determination of these parameters.

Determination of Blood Glucose Concentration(mg/dl)

The blood glucose concentration was measured by the enzymatic method with GOD-PAP reagent the blood was determined after four week of administration of hot aqueous extract *Salvia Officinallis* at zero time and four hours¹⁵.

The principle of the determination of glucose is based on the reaction



Determination of Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase Activity(1U/L):

The principle of this method is based on Beutler method is as follows:



The rate of NADPH concentration increasing in measured at 340nm is proportional to the G-6PDH activity in the specimen¹⁶.

Determination of MalondialdehydeMDA(μmoles/L) levels

The concept of this procedure was based on spectrophotometric measurement of the color happen through the reaction between thiobarbituric acid and malondialdehyde (MDA) yielding pinkish red chromogen with an absorbance at 532 nm¹⁷.

Determination of Lipid Peroxidation Assay(μmole/L)

A modified thiobarbituric acid – reactive kinds assay was used to evaluate the lipid peroxide formed using egg-yolk homogenates as lipid – rich media¹⁸.

Statistical Analysis:

Statistical analysis was performed by SPSS statistics version 17. Subject with groups (1, 2 and 3) were compared between them. Means, standard deviation, confidence interval 95% the results of biochemical analysis were assessed by student's t-test; significant variation was considered when the P value was less than 0.05.

Phytochemical Analysis

After preparation of different extracts the results show that the yield of ethanolic extract was (8.3%). While the yield of the hot and cold extracts are (3.83 %w/w) and (3.80 %w/w) respectively. These results are due to the effect of heating and the nature of the solvent which may be isolated most of the active chemical components in ethanolic extract more than aqueous cold and hot extract.

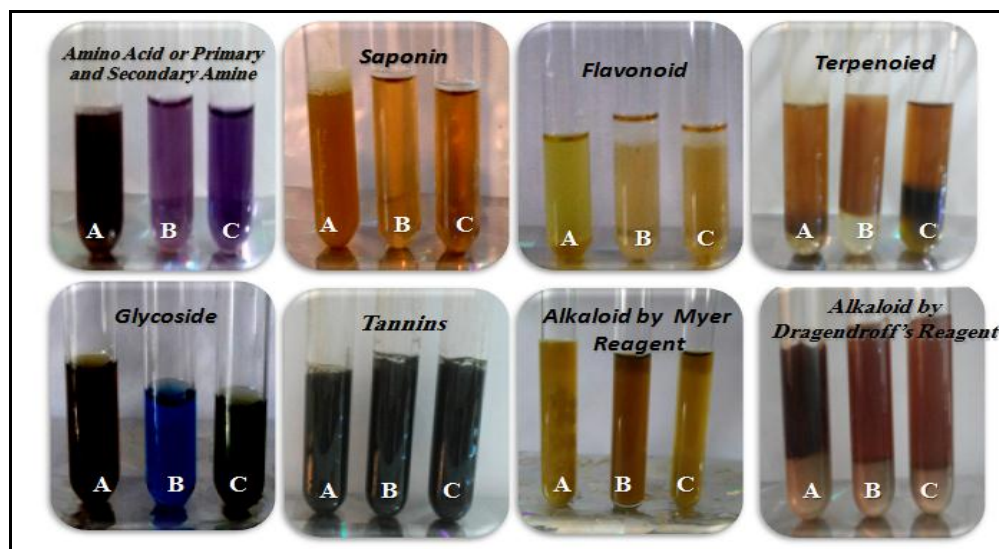
Phytochemical analysis is very helpful in the estimation of some active biological components of medicinal plants^{19,20}. *Salvia officinalis* L. extracts showed positive results for all constituents analyzed, except for anthroquinones, phlobatanins as shown in Table (2) and Figure (1).

Medicinal plants have bioactive compounds which play a great role in healing and are used for curing of various human diseases²¹. Phytochemicals have a main role in inhibiting chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes and coronary heart disease. The major classes of phytochemicals with disease inhibition functions are dietary fiber, antioxidants, anticancer, detoxifying agents, inviolability potentiating factor and neuropharmacological agents²². Kumari S J *et al.* introduced a review to elucidate that natural compounds like terpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic compounds such as flavanoid have shown antidiabetic effect through the insulin like activity. Among the reviewed compounds, flavonoids majorly exhibit the Antidiabetic activity. It acts by preventing β -cell apoptosis and promotes β -cell proliferation and insulin secretion²³.

Table (2): The Qualitative Analysis of *Salvia Officinal* L. Extracts

Phytochemical Constituents	Ethanolic Extract	Hot Extract	Cold Extract	Color
Alkaloids	+++	++	+	Turbidity
Amino Acids or Primary and Secondary Amine	+	++	++	Blue - Violet
Anthroquinones	-	-	-	-
Flavonoids	++	+	+	Yellow
Glycosides	-	+++	-	
Phlobatanins	-	-	-	----
Saponins	+++	++	++	Forth
Tannins	+++	+++	+++	Blue-black
Terpenoids	++	++	++	Reddish Brown

Where as: (+) Present, (++) Fairly Good Amount, (+++) Good Amount, (-): Absent



Figure(1): Qualitative Analysis of Phytochemical Constituents for *Salvia officinal* L. Extracts. Whereas:- A: Ethanolic Extract B: Hot Extract C: Cold Extract

While the results of quantitative analysis of phytochemical screening of *Salvia officinalis* L. extracts showed in the Table (3).

Table (3): The Quantitative Analysis of Phytochemical Screening of *Salvia Officinalis* L. Extracts

Cold Extract	Hot Extract	Ethanolic Extract	Phytochemical Constituents
0.56%	0.56%	0.77%	Alkaloids
1.3%	1.6%	1.4 %	Flavonoids
2.82%	3.79%	2.92%	Saponins

Determination of the Active Time and Active Dose

The study included the determination of active dose and time for the hypoglycemic effect of *Salvia officinalis* L. extracts (hot and ethanolic 70%) from the qualitative and quantitative analysis of *Salvia officinalis* L. extracts which illustrated that hot and ethanolic extract given the best results of phytochemical constituents in the Table (4) show the hypoglycemic effect of the two extracts.

Table (4): Hypoglycemic Effect of *Salvia Officinalis* L. in Different Times (0, 2, 4, 6 and 24) Hours (The results were expressed as mean of data for three rabbits in each group).

Control	Blood Glucose Levels for Doses (mg/dl)			Extracts
	500mg/kg	200 mg/kg	100 mg/kg	
N.S				
103	120.6	103	92.3	0
97	74.8	74	81	2
94	69.6	70	73	4
99	108	103.6	92.2	6
111	103	101.2	97	24
103	122.6	93	105	0
97	106	78.8	96.6	2
94	97	77	74.6	4
99	99	126	116.6	6
111	102	124	121	24

The blood was collected from the rabbits of the groups, at different times 0,2,4,6,24 hours. The results in the Table (4) showed that four hours is the best time for hypoglycemic effect for the two extracts (hot and ethanolic 70%) after six hours the blood glucose of rabbit was significantly increased compared with four hours of oral administration the two extracts give good results for hypoglycemic effect but ethanolic extract cause several deaths cases for the rabbits especially in 200 mg/kg and 500 mg/kg while the treatment with hot extract didn't cause any death for that, the hot extract will be chosen to study the hypoglycemic effect of *Salvia Officinalis* L. on induced diabetic rabbits. Also Table (4) showed that the glucose levels are directly proportional with concentration of hot extract.

Estimation of Blood Glucose Concentration (mg/dL)

Diabetes in experimental animal occurs due to a high oxidative stress resulting from the persistent and chronic hyperglycemia²⁴.

Table: (5) Glucose Levels (mg/dl) for Rabbits Groups Treated with Hot Aqueous Extract of *Salvia Officinalis* Extract Compared with Control Group

P-Value	Confidence interval		S.E	Mean \pm S.D	The Groups
	Upper	Lower			
At Zero Time					
0.003*	104	80	3.65	91.3 \pm 8.9	Group 1
0.005**	312	284	4.75	292 \pm 11.5	Group 2
0.007***	160	140	3.34	156 \pm 9.3	Group 3
After Four Hours					
0.001*	96	80	2.46	86.6 \pm 6.0	Group 1
0.001**	320	288	4.56	303.3 \pm 11.1	Group 2
0.002***	120	104	3	115.3 \pm 7.3	Group 3

*: it means significance related of G1 with G2. **: it means significant related of G1 with G3 *** it means significant related of G2 with G3.

The results showed in the Table (5) that refer to the ability of the aqueous extract of *Salvia Officinalis* in reducing of glucose levels and this results give a good indicator for the hypoglycemic effect of sage that related to the active component of the plant, which have been found to stimulate secretion or possess an insulin like effect²⁵, and can act on pancreatic β -cells leading to their proliferation and secretion of more insulin, and these flavonoids may exert its effects on insulin release from islet of langerhans via changes in Ca^{2+} metabolism. The active component in the aqueous extract of *Salvia Officinalis* may be responsible for β -cell regeneration and insulin release. Also, will promote induction of hepatic glucokinase, and the increases in this enzyme activity cause directly demonstrates increased insulin release from β -cell²⁶. This result agrees with other previous studies²⁷.

Determination of Blood glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase Activity:

Diabetes mellitus is a common and complicated disease. Studies imply blood glucose and its oxidize derivatives have a key role in the pathologic process of DM. "Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase" (G6PD), was antioxidant enzyme and an important in preventing its complications. Unsuitable management of blood glucose decreases G6PD activity and will increase diabetes mellitus complications²⁸.

High glucose has been shown to extend ROS in several cell types with diabetes because of a combination of increased production of ROS along with decreased antioxidant function²⁹. Many laboratories have shown that pancreatic cells are very sensitive to oxidant damage, which has been attributed to the low expression levels of antioxidant enzymes. Thus, cells are likely at higher risk of oxidizer mediated cellular injury and death as compared to alternative class cell varieties³⁰. Table (6) illustrated the G6PD for the rabbits groups

Table(6): G-6-PDH Activity (IU/L) for Rabbits Groups Treated with Hot Aqueous Extract of *Salvia Officinallis* Compared with Control Group

P-Value	Confidence Interval		S.E	Mean \pm S.D	The Groups
	Upper	Lower			
At Zero Time					
0.0005*	4.92	3.93	0.125	4.505 \pm 0.37	Group 1
0.0007**					
0.087***	3.44	2.95	0.08	3.03 \pm 0.2	Group 2
0.087****	3.44	2.95	0.08	3.19 \pm 0.26	Group 3
After Four Hours					
	3.44	2.95	0.15	3.35 \pm 0.36	Group 3

*: it means significance related of G1 with G2, **: it means significance related of G1 with G3 at zero time, ***: it means significance related of G2 with G3 at zero time, ****: it means significance related of G3 at zero time with G3 at four hours.

The results showed in the above Table explain that the diabetic group has the lowest value, from Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) activity is the main source of the major intracellular reductant, NADPH, which is required by many enzymes, including enzymes of the antioxidant pathway, high glucose impairs G6PD activity in endothelial and kidney cells, which leads to decreased cell survival. Pancreatic cells are highly sensitive to increased ROS²⁷.

Determination of Malondialdehyde MDA (μ moles/L) levels

Malondialdehyde (MDA) is an accepted marker of lipid oxidative damage. Malondialdehyde was produced when highly reactive oxygen metabolites, particularly hydroxyl radicals, act on unsaturated fatty acids of phospholipids components of membranes⁹.

Table (7): Malondialdehyde Levels ($\mu\text{moles/L}$) for Rabbits Groups Treated with Hot Aqueous Extract of *Salvia Officinallis* Extract Compared with Control Group

P-Value	Confidence Interval		S.E	Mean \pm S.D	The Groups
	Upper	Lower			
At Zero Time					
0.01*	1.4	1.2	0.0429	1.3\pm0.1	Group 1
0.046**					
0.05***	3.5	2.6	0.127	3.06\pm0.30	Group 2
0.001****	2.7	1.8	0.125	2.36\pm0.3	Group 3
After Four Hours					
	1.9	1.2	0.095	1.45\pm0.23	Group 3

*: it means significance related of G1with G2,**: it means significance related of G1with G3at zero time, ***: it means significance related of G2with G3at zero time , **** : it means significance related of G3at zero time with G3at four hours

In the Table (7) we found a significant rise in serum level of MDA in the group of diabetes mellitus as compared to controls, indicating that an increase in oxidative stress might play a key role in pathogenesis of diabetes mellitus and its complication.

Determination of Lipid Peroxidation Assay ($\mu\text{mole/L}$):

Lipid peroxidation is employed as a marker of cellular oxidative stress and contributes to the oxidative damage that occurs as a result of xenobiotics metabolism, inflammatory processes, ischemia, reperfusion injuries and chronic diseases such as atherosclerosis and cancer³¹. There's considerable evidence that hyperglycemia represents the most explanation for complications of diabetes (DM), and oxidative stress ensuing from an increased generation of reactive oxygen species plays a vital role in their pathologic process³².

Table (8): Lipid Peroxidation Levels ($\mu\text{moles/L}$) for Rabbits Groups Treated with Hot Aqueous Extract of *Salvia Officinalis*L. Extract Compared with Control Group

P-Value	Confidence Interval		S.E	Mean \pm S.D	The Groups
	Upper	Lower			
At Zero Time					
0.0007*	29	23	0.98	24.8\pm2.4	Group 1
0.00009**					
0.297***	39	31	1.18	35.1\pm2.9	Group 2
0.06****	39	30	0.8	33.8\pm3.5	Group 3
At Four Hours					
	34	28	0.8	31.6\pm1.9	Group 3

It means significance related of G1with G2,**: it means significance related of G1with G3at zero time, ***: it means significance related of G2with G3at zero time , ****: : it means significance related of G3at zero time with G3at four hours

At the Table (8) we found a significant rise in serum level of lipid peroxidation in the group of diabetes mellitus as compared to controls.

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