



## Study The Effect of Coriandrum Sativum on liver Fibrosis Induced by Carbon Tetrachloride in Rats

### KEYWORDS

Coriandrum sativum (CS); Liver fibrosis; Anti-oxidant activity; anti-smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA).

\* Nabila Zein

EssamAbd Elghani

Eman Talat

Biochemistry Division, Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Zagazig University.  
\* Corresponding author

Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Zagazig University

Biochemistry Division, Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Zagazig University

**ABSTRACT** The aim of this study was to investigate the possible anti-hepatic fibrosis effect and antioxidant role of Coriandrum sativum(CS) extract against Carbon tetrachloride (CCL4)induced liver fibrosis bearing adult male rats. The extracted CS was proved by phytochemical analysis e.g thin layer chromatography (TLC). The TLC analysis revealed the presence of some important polyphenolic compounds which could be responsible for the anti-oxidant activity. The effects of CS on liver enzymes alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST),were studied, the level of lipid peroxidation, were estimated. Treatment with CS significantly decreased the elevation in (AST) and (ALT). It also inhibited the formation of lipid peroxidative products Malondialdehyde (MDA) and nitric oxide (NO) level during CCl4 treatment.The expression of anti-smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) in liver was decreased in combination, preventive,therapeutic and silymarine groups in comparison with positive control group. The present work indicates that the CS extract may possess significant anti-hepatic fibrosis and antioxidant activity against CCL4 induced hepatotoxicity in vivo.

### INTRODUCTION

Hepatic diseases represent the major cause of human mortality in the world,they are characterized by a progressive evolution from steatosis to chronic hepatitis, fibrosis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (Notas et al.,2009). A major cause of these disorders is due to exposure to different environmental pollutants and xenobiotics such as alcohol, paracetamol,carbontetrachloride and thioacetamide(Jaeschke et al., 2012).Carbontetrachloride (CCl4) an industrial solvent, cleaner and degreaser. The initial step in biotransformation of CCl4 is reductive dehalogenation and by formation trichloromethyl and trichloromethylperoxyl radicals(Sabaetal.,2010). Also, down regulates the gene expression of many antioxidant enzymes triggering an oxidative stress (Aietal.,2013). This oxidative stress plays a crucial role in the activation of hepatic stellated cells (HSCs) during liver fibrosis, developing a myofibroblast – like phenotype associated with increased cell proliferation, de novo expression of  $\alpha$ -smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) and production of extracellular matrix (ECM) including fibril forming collagens(PriyaandSudhakaran, 2008).

Polyphenolic compounds are widely distributed in plants and known to be excellent antioxidants in vitro and have the capacity to scavenge free radicals and protect antioxidant defence(Mitraet al., 2000).Since dietary polyphenols have been reported to be inversely associated with lipid peroxidation and cytotoxicity, an attempt was made to study the effects of the extracts of Coriandrum sativum on the activities of antioxidant enzymes in CCl4 treated liver. The present study was designed to investigate in vivo antioxidant activities of ethanolic extract of CS. Results were compared to a standard antioxidant drug Silymarin (SMN), which has awell established hepatoprotective properties. SMN effectively scavenges free radicals, antagonizes lipid peroxidation, and stabilizes cell membranes (Letteronet al., 1990).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials:Basal diet, carbon tetrachloride, and chemical kits for biochemical analysis were obtained from Biodiagnostic-Company, Giza, Egypt.The fresh leaves and stem of coriander Overall, were purchased from the local market at Zagazig, Egypt. The plant sample were kindly identified and proved by Herbarium unit of Potany Department Faculty of Science ZagazigUniversity.

**Extract Preparation:** The plant samples were airdried for 10 days and powdered. The dried and powdered plant (2kg) were extracted successively with mixture of ethanol:water (3:1)in a soxhlet extractor for 48 hours at 60°C. After extraction, the solvent was evaporated to dryness at 50-55°C using a rotary evaporator(Kilet al.,2009). Finally,The extract was stored at 4°Ctill the analysis of different parameters.

**Animals :** Adult male Sprague-Dawely rats weighing 180-260 gm were purchased from Animal House of the National Research Center (NRC), Dokki, Giza, Egypt. They were kept individually in stainless steel wire bottomed cages at room temperature (25±2 °C). Rats had free access to food and water. They were used after acclimatization period of one week.

**Phytochemical analysis :** The chromatographic profiles were developed for ethanolic extract using in triplicates for the identification of the polyphenols by paper chromatpgraphy. The Polyphenol separation included the isolation and identification of (a) Flavonoids (b) Phenolic Acids (c) Glycoflavones.The identities of all the compounds were confirmed with authentic samples (Nambiaret al.,2010) .

**Experimental Design :** Animals were randomly assigned to six groups each of twelve rats as follow:**Group 1:** Negative control group, Rats injected i.p. with saline once daily for 7 days. **Group 2:** Positive control group, Rats injected i.p. with CCl4 in a dose of 0.5ml/kg b.wt. i.p. once daily for 7 days (Ashokshenoyet al., 2001). **Group 3:** Preven-

tive group, Rats were injected i.p with coriander extracted dose of 200mg/kg b.wt orally by gavages at the beginning of the experiment, at the second day Rats were injected i.p. within the dose of CCl<sub>4</sub> once daily for 7 days, and then Rats were received the same dose of the extracted once daily for 15 days. **Group 4:** Therapeutic group, Rats were injected i.p. within the dose of CCl<sub>4</sub> once daily for 7 days, and then Rats were received the same dose of the extracted once daily for 15 days. **Group 5:** Silymarine group, Rats were injected i.p. within the dose of CCl<sub>4</sub> once daily for 7 days, and then rats were received silymarin in a dose of 25 mg /kg b.wt orally by gavages once daily for 15 days (**Sreelatha et al., 2009**). **Group 6:** Combination group, Rats were injected i.p. within the dose of CCl<sub>4</sub> once daily for 7 days, and then rats were received orally by gavage a combined dose of 200mg/kg the coriander extracted and 25mg/kg silymarine once daily for 15 days.

**Blood collection:** At the end of 15<sup>th</sup> day, blood samples were collected from the retro-orbital vein plexus and direct cardiac puncture, under ether anesthesia samples for biochemical analysis into plain sample tubes. Serum was separated by centrifugation at 600 x g for 15 min. The sera were stored in the -20 °C freezer before they were analyzed.

**Biochemical Analysis:** 1) Determination of plasma aspartate and alanine aminotransferase activities was assayed according to (**Young, 2001**). 2) Determination of liver malondialdehyde level was assayed according to (**Satoh, 1978**) and nitric oxide level according to (**Montgomery and Dymock, 1961**).

**Immunohistochemical study:** The harvested liver tissues were fixed in Bouin's, embedded in paraffin and sectioned at 5 µm thickness. Immunocytochemical reactions were performed according to (**Erenoglu et al., 2011**).

**Statistical Analysis:** Statistical analysis of data was performed by using SPSS 14.0 version using T-test (2-tailed) was applied to compare between groups and one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to the method described by (**Levesque, 2007**) followed by post-hoc test using Graphpad Prism-5 software. Numerical data were expressed as mean ± SD, P values < 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### Extraction of plant and Phytochemical constituents:

Coriander sativum (2 kg) after undergoing extraction yielded deeply green paste (60g) of the extract. This extract revealed the presence of various phytoconstituents of polyphenols like flavonoids and phenolic Acids. The flavonoids that were identified are kaempferol, quercetin, 3'-OMe quercetin, 4'-OMe quercetin and acacetin. The phenolic acids that were identified vanillic acid, ferulic acid (cis and trans form) and p-coumaric acid as shown in table (1).

### Biochemical result:

There was significant decrease in the level of ALT, AST, MDA and NO in combination, preventive, therapeutic and silymarine groups compared to positive control group as shown in Table (2)

### Immunohistochemical study (α-SMA) results:

Liver tissue sections were stained by antibody to α-SMA. The negative control group showing no evidence of membranous or cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in any of the portal tracts shown (**Fig.1**). The positive control

group showing markedly positive of membrane or cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in the portal tract as shown (**Fig.2**). The combination group showing weakly positively of membranous and cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in any of the portal tracts as shown (**Fig.3**). The preventive group showing mild positive of membranous or cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in any of the portal tracts as shown (**Fig.4**). The therapeutic group showing moderate positively of membranous and cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in any of the portal tracts as shown (**Fig.5**). The silymarine group showing moderate positively of membranous and cytoplasmic immunostaining for α-SMA in any of the portal tracts as shown (**Fig.6**).

**Table 1: The content of coriander**

Polyphenolic compound	Coriander	Phenolic acid compounds	Coriander
Apigenin	-	Vanillic acid	+
3',4'-di-OMe luteolin	-	Syringic acid	-
Kaempferol	+	p-OH benzoic acid	-
4'-OMe kaempferol	-	Melilotic acid	-
7',4'-di-OMe kaempferol	-	Gentisic acid	-
Quercetin	+	o-Coumaric acid	-
3'-OMe quercetin	+	p-Coumaric acid	+
4'-OMe quercetin	+	Cis-Ferulic acid	+
3',4'-di-OMe quercetin	-	Trans-Ferulic acid	+
Acacetin	+	Phloretic acid	-
Gossypetin	-	Chlorogenic acid	-
Quercetagetin	-	Resorcylic acid	-
Proanthocyanidins	-	Trans-Ferulic acid	+
Anthocyanins	-	Phloretic acid	-
Coumarins	-	Chlorogenic acid	-

+ : Present; - : Absent

**Table 2: Relation between ALT, AST MDA and NO level and all groups**

	ALT (U/ml)	AST (U/ml)	MDA (nmol/g)	NO (µmol/g)
Negative control	37.3±4.5	99.5±9.7	31.4±14.5	41.9±9.4
Positive control	105±9.3 <sup>a</sup>	264.9±37 <sup>a</sup>	182.7±35.4 <sup>a</sup>	79.2±4.5 <sup>a</sup>
Combination	50.8±3 <sup>ab</sup>	128.3±6.4 <sup>ab</sup>	49.4±4.8 <sup>ab</sup>	49.8±4.2 <sup>ab</sup>
% change	51.6%	51.1%	72.9%	59.03%
Preventive	54.8±7.8 <sup>ab</sup>	149.4±7.2 <sup>ab</sup>	61.9±4.9 <sup>ab</sup>	60.9±1.8 <sup>ab</sup>
% change	43.04%	43.6%	66.1%	30.04%
Therapeutic	75.4±0.4 <sup>ab</sup>	180.4±14.3 <sup>ab</sup>	91.6±8.4 <sup>ab</sup>	68.3±4.0 <sup>ab</sup>
% change	30.09%	31.8%	49.8%	15.95%
Silymarin	85.2±4.3 <sup>ab</sup>	208.1±7.1 <sup>ab</sup>	126.8±13.5 <sup>ab</sup>	72.3±1.7 <sup>ab</sup>
% change	18.8%	21.4%	30.5%	9%

Values are expressed as mean±S.E.,

a: Values significantly differ from negative control group..

b: Values significantly differ from positive control group.,

\*: P<0.001

% change: Values different from positive control group

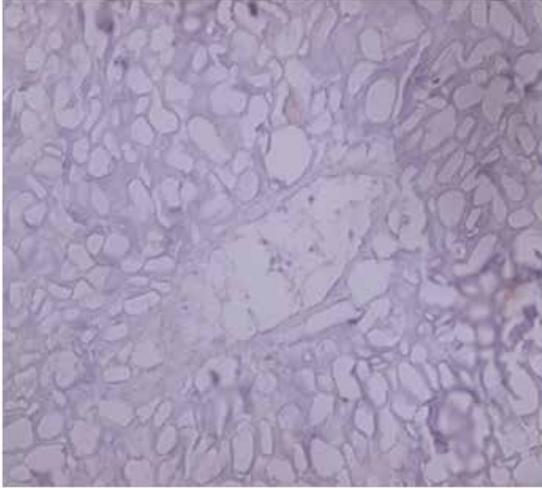


Fig. (1): Negative control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from negative control group.(H&E,X 400)

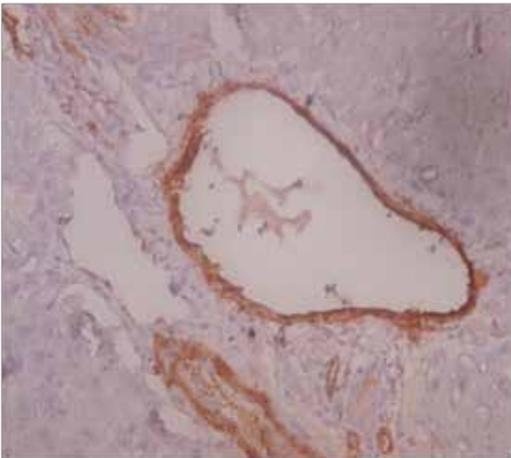


Fig (2):Positive control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from positive control group.(H&E,X 400)

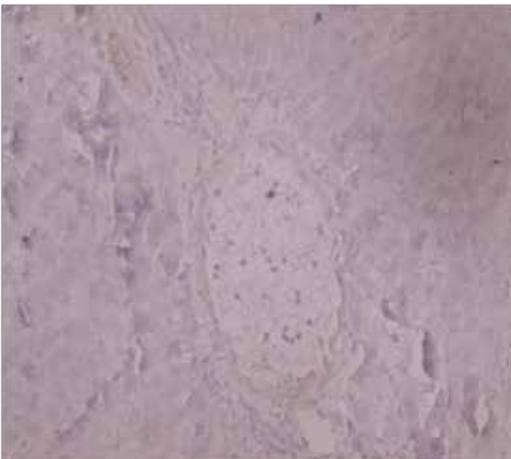


Fig. (3): Combination control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from combination control group.(H&E,X 400)

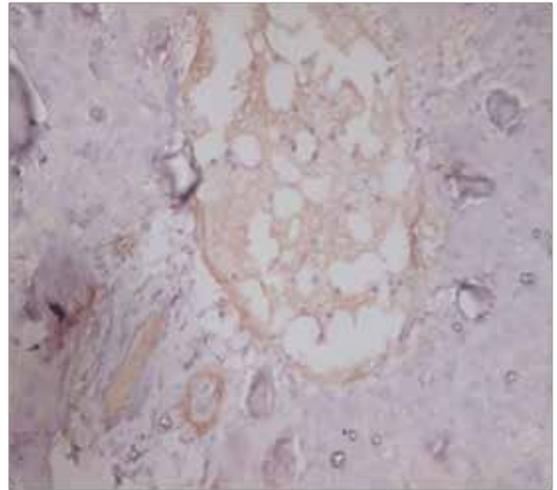


Fig. (4): Preventive control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from preventive control group.(H&E,X 400)

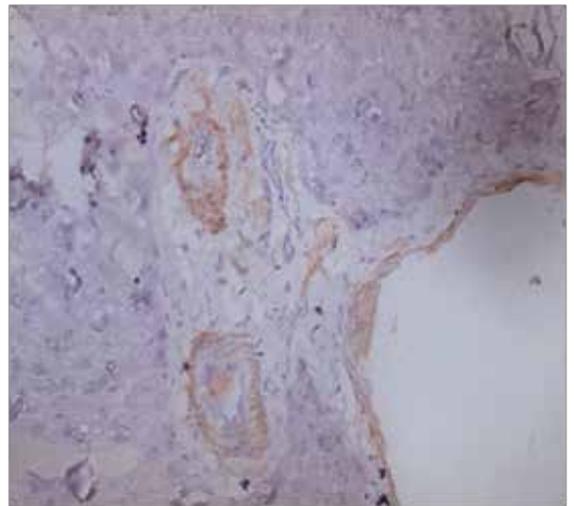


Fig. (5): Therapeutic control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from therapeutic control group.(H&E,X 400)

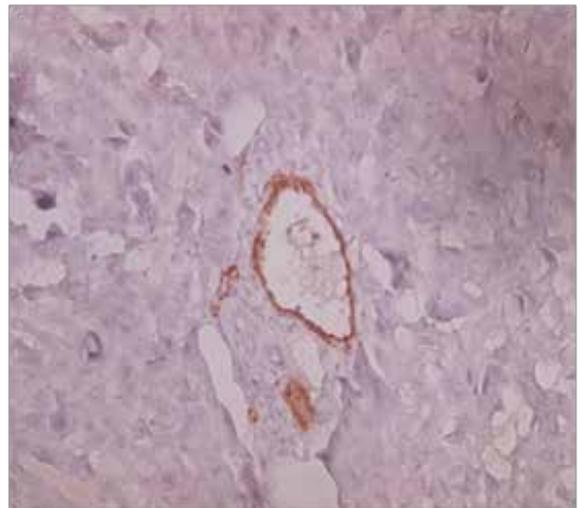


Fig. (6): Silymarine control: Photomicrograph of rat liver from Silymarine control group.(H&E,X 400)

## DISCUSSION

*Coriandrum sativum* (Coriander) is considered as a rich source of biologically active compounds mainly polyphenolic compounds. The present study indicates the Polyphenol separation by co-chromatography (paper and thin-layer chromatography) included the isolation and identification of flavonoids and Phenolic Acids. Generally, some flavonoids exert a stimulatory action on transcription and gene expression of certain antioxidant enzymes that play an important role against oxidative insults (Rohrdanz et al., 2002).

Hepatotoxicity produced by CCl<sub>4</sub> seems to be mediated by reactive metabolite trichloro methyl free radical (.CCl<sub>3</sub>) formed by the hemolytic cleavage of CCl<sub>4</sub> or even by more reactive species trichloro methyl peroxy free radical (Cl<sub>3</sub>COO.) formed by the reaction of .CCl<sub>3</sub> with O<sub>2</sub> caused membrane damage of hepatocytes and resulted in centrilobular necrosis. These free radicals attack microsomal lipids leading to its peroxidation and also covalently bind to microsomal lipids and proteins. This results in the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which includes the super-oxide anion O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the hydroxyl radical (Ghadaet al., 2013).

The current study revealed that CCl<sub>4</sub> treatment causes severe hepatic damage through a substantial elevation in the blood levels of hepatic biochemical markers like ALT and AST when liver cell membrane is damaged, a variety of enzymes normally located in the cytosol are released in to blood stream like, (AST) and (ALT) are found in higher concentrations in the cytoplasm and AST in particular also exists in mitochondria. AST is found in the liver, skeletal muscles, cardiac muscle, pancreas, kidney and others, meanwhile, ALT level is highest in the liver and therefore, it appears to be more sensitive test for hepatocellular damage than AST (Nyblomet al., 2004). Our data in table (2) showed that CS has significant decrease on the elevation of plasma levels of ALT and AST due to its antioxidant effect. This is in agreement with (Kassem et al., 2014) who reported that Pretreatment with CS before introduction of CCl<sub>4</sub> had significantly reduced the elevated plasma enzyme significantly reduced the elevated plasma enzyme indicating a hepato-protection activity of CS via its antioxidant activity quenches ROS produced by CCl<sub>4</sub>, reserves antioxidant enzymes and restores their levels and protects cellular organelles from CCl<sub>4</sub> damage such as cell membrane, lysosomes, mitochondria and microsomes. Ahmed et al. (2003) reported that, silymarin has an antihepatotoxic activity against carbon tetrachloride induced hepatotoxicity in rats.

Malondialdehyde (MDA) is an end product of lipid peroxidation, is widely used as a marker of lipid peroxidation. Lipid peroxidation (LP) is one of the main manifestations of oxidative damage. It is well documented that CCl<sub>4</sub> enhanced lipid peroxidation (Sarhan et al., 2012) that is an indication of free radical mediated toxicity. Free radicals are known to attack the highly unsaturated fatty acids of the cell membrane and induce lipid peroxidation that is considered a key process in many pathological events induced by oxidative stress (Schinella et al., 2002).

In the present study, MDA was found to be significantly higher in the animals treated with CCl<sub>4</sub> alone suggesting that this agent has a significant effect on LP. From the results showed in Table (2) it may be possible that CS decreases LP level due to its antioxidant effect. Our results are in agreement with Haggag, (2011) who reported that the increase in malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in liver suggests

enhanced lipid peroxidation leading to tissue damage and failure of antioxidant defense mechanisms to prevent formation of excessive free radicals in CCl<sub>4</sub> induced hepatotoxicity in rats. Treatment with ethanol extract of CS significantly reversed these changes, and it may be possible that the mechanism of hepatoprotection by ethanol extraction of CS is due to its antioxidant effect.

The excessive production of nitric oxide (NO) in the cell may be due to viral or bacterial infections and can promote pathogenesis by promoting oxidative stress, tissue injury and even cancer (Ratheet al., 2009). In the current study, the ingestion of CCl<sub>4</sub> significantly increased NO suggesting that CCl<sub>4</sub> preferentially affects macrophage functions. Our data showed in Table (2) that CS has significant inhibition on NO formation that might be due to its anti-inflammatory effect. Nitric oxide reacts with free radicals, thereby producing peroxynitrite can directly oxidize LDL, resulting in irreversible damage to the cell membrane. When flavonoids are used as antioxidants, free radicals are scavenged and, therefore can no longer react with nitric oxide, resulting in less damage. Coriander is also reported to be a chelating agent and effective as pharmaceutical agents in removing heavy metals (Omura, 1998).

Hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) are responsible for the overabundant and maladaptive generation of matrix proteins in human liver diseases. The activation of hepatic stellate cells involves increased cellular proliferation, increased synthesis of extracellular matrix proteins, and the expression of the activation marker  $\alpha$ -smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) (Miyazaki et al., 1993).  $\alpha$ -SMA, an intermediate filament protein that is expressed by activated HSC and is widely accepted as a marker of HSC activation, was used to identify and quantify activated HSC by immunostaining the fibrotic liver tissue. Like (Aksuet et al., 2010) studies, found that the positive stainings for  $\alpha$ -SMA were greatly increased, especially in vascular smooth muscle cells and sinusoids and also in the cells of portal ducts, fibrotic septa, present and around the cells of portal ducts, fibrotic septa, present and around the proliferated bile ducts. Our results showed that  $\alpha$ -SMA significantly decrease by the administration of CS. Wu et al. (2010) reviewed that one of the well-known mechanisms of CS as cytoprotective and anti-inflammatory response by preventing the development of the liver fibrosis and suppressing proliferation and inducing apoptosis of HSC and decreasing the expression of  $\alpha$ -SMA.

**Conclusion:** It could be concluded from the present results that, CCl<sub>4</sub> intoxication considerably damaged the liver. It also depleted the antioxidant enzymes. As a result, CS as well as the reference drug silymarin enriched in phenolic compounds can protect humans against hepatotoxicity induced by various xenobiotics and help maintain healthy liver by restoration of the liver function enzymes and enhancement of the reduction in malondialdehyde. CS may protect free radical mediated damage of parenchyma by inducing apoptosis of activated HSCs decreasing the expression of  $\alpha$ -SMA.

**Acknowledgment:** We acknowledge Prof. Dr. Samih Ibrahim El Dahmy, Department of Pharmacognosy and Medicinal Plants, Faculty of Pharmacy, Zagazig University for performance and Interpretation of the Phytochemical analysis.

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