



Research Article

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Cardiotherapeutic Effect of Naringin and Hesperidin via Anti-Inflammatory and Antioxidant Effect in Experimental Model

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ABSTRACT

Myocardial infarction (MI) is the main cause of heart failure and has a high prevalence and mortality and a great impact on social life. Naringin (Nar) and hesperidin (Hes) are citrus flavonoids, with powerful biological properties. The present study aimed to show the ameliorative effect of naringin and hesperidin and their combinations on improvement MI induced experimentally. Fifty rats were divided into five groups (ten rats each) as follow: Group 1: Healthy control group, Group 2: cardiac dysfunction (CD) induced group by adriamycin (ADR), Group 3: (CD + Nar) induced rats treated orally with naringin, Group 4: (CD + Hes) induced rats treated orally with hesperidin, Group 5: (CD + Nar+ Hes) induced group were treated orally with combination of naringin and hesperidin. Biochemical results revealed significant elevation of markers in groups treated with naringin, hesperidin and their combinations. Our results showed a significant increase in ox-LDL and MDA accompanied by a decrease in SOD in the CD-induced group. Combinations of treatment with naringin and hesperidin showed great improvement effects in all biochemical markers under investigation. The biochemical aspects have also been confirmed by histological findings. In conclusion: outcomes of the present study confirmed that treatment by either naringin, hesperidin or their combinations of naringin and hesperidin have a promising effective rate in ameliorating CD-induced experimentally.

Key words: Naringin, Hesperidin, Cardiac dysfunction, Myocardial infarction, Cardiac biomarkers, Inflammation, Oxidative stress.

INTRODUCTION

Cardiovascular disease (CVDs) is a chronic disease of the heart and the arteries. The term is commonly used to refer to the diseases related to arteriosclerosis and other arterial diseases [1]. The mortality due to heart diseases increases every year and has exceeded that accrued to cancer [2, 3]. Coronary and heart diseases are a major cause of mortality in limited-resource settings [4, 5]. The risk factors for atherosclerosis can be targeted to lower cardiovascular diseases [6]. Urbanization in Saudi Arabia has increased recently, doubling of the people living in an urban setting [7]. The high rate of urbanization has led to the lifestyle of the majority of people living in town and a consequent increase in the morbidity of cardiovascular diseases. However, the data from the National preventive health system show a lower prevalence of cardiovascular diseases in Saudi Arabia [8]. For a long time, the antitumor drug Adriamycin has been used to treat cancer including lymphomas, leukemia, solid tumors, and soft-tissue sarcomas [9]. Unfortunately, adriamycin has severe, irreversible and dose-dependent cardiotoxicity [10]. However, despite long term use of Adriamycin to treat cancers, this drug has been associated with toxicity resulting in mitochondria impairment, oxidative stress, an overload of calcium and apoptosis [11, 12]. The drug

results in the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) that cause cardiomyocyte apoptosis [13]. Flavonoids from citrus fruits with polyphenolic compounds have helped treat metabolic dysregulation. Some of the flavonoids in citrus fruits include naringenin, hesperidin, nobiletin, and tangeretin. Besides, epidemiological studies have emerged, demonstrating the medical value of the flavonoids to reduce cardiovascular diseases. Among the biological properties of the flavonoids, antihypertension, insulin sensitization, lipid-lowering and anti-inflammatory activities are the most evident based on previous studies [14]. The active compound Naringin (4',5,7-trihydroxyflavone 7-rhamnoglucoside), in grape and citrus fruits [15], have anti-inflammatory and cardio-protective activities such as lowering of blood glucose, increased insulin sensitivity and lowering cholesterol levels [16]. Hesperidin (C₂₈H₃₄O₁₅) is a flavanone glycoside, considered as a member of citrus flavonoids in oranges [17]. Hesperidin is commonly used as a supplement known to reduce the effects of CDVs, antidiabetic effects, and reducing blood coagulation. The hesperidin is commonly used to reduce hypertension, and myocardial infarction [18]. Despite decades of research on the biological effects of flavonoids, there are no studies that have been performed on the combinatory effects of naringin and hesperidin on cardiac dysfunction. The current study opens up opportunities to come up with more effective therapeutic natural compounds effective against CVDs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Chemicals:

Kits used in this study were purchased from NOVA (Beijing, China). Naringin was sourced from Swanson Health Products (Fargo, ND 58104 United States), and Hesperidin was sourced from Douglas Laboratories (Pittsburgh, PA 15205 United States) while Adriamycin was obtained from King Abdulaziz University Hospital pharmacy (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia).

Animals:

Model animals used in this study included 50 male albino rats weighing 120-130g. The animals were obtained from the Animal House Colony of King Fahd Medical Research Center. The animals were acclimatized for one week before the experiment commenced. The mice were maintained at a standard housing facility at the King Fahd Medical Research Center Animal Facility Breeding Colony. The mice were maintained on laboratory chow and water *ad libitum*.

Experimental Design

The experiment was performed by dividing the 50 rats into five groups (ten rats each) and treated as follows. The first group was the control group. This group was treated with 1 ml of oral saline daily. Group 2 was the cardiac dysfunction group, treated with Adriamycin in one dose of (10 mg/Kg bw) [19]. The rest of the groups (3-5) were treated with either naringin, hesperidin and their combination after CD induction in a dose of 20 mg/kg bw for naringin [20] and a dose of 50 mg/kg bw for hesperidin for 30 days [21].

Biochemical Analysis and Histopathological

After 45 weeks, the experimental animals were starved overnight and anesthetized. Blood specimens were drawn using capillary micro-tubes. Blood was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes to obtain plasma. Heart-type fatty acid-binding protein (FABP3), Myosin light-chain kinase I (MYLK), Troponins I (cTn-I), Troponins T (cTn-T), creatine kinase MB fraction (CK-MB), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), B-type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP), C-reactive protein (CRP), Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α), Oxidized LDLs (ox-LDL) were determined using ELISA Immunoassay following the manufacturers protocols. Additionally, other markers, including the Malondialdehyde (MDA) and Superoxide dismutase (SOD), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), were estimated in plasma using the spectrophotometric approach. Histopathological studies were performed on heart tissues. The sliced tissues were fixed in 10% formalin and sections prepared in paraffin blocks. Staining was performed using hematoxylin and eosin after dewaxing [22].

Statistical Analysis

The values of experimental groups were compared with the values of individual rats. The results were presented as mean \pm SE. The analysis of variance was used to compare groups (ONE-WAY ANOVA). All analysis was

performed in Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) program (ANOVA), and results were considered statistically significant at $p \leq 0.05$.

RESULTS:

Results from the table (1) revealed a significant elevation in cardiac myocyte injury biomarkers including cTn-I, cTn-T, FABP3 and MYLK in the CD group as compared to the healthy control group ($P \leq 0.05$). Treatment with either naringin, hesperidin, and their combination showed significant regression in these biomarkers ($P \leq 0.05$). Table (2) showed a significant increase in the CD group in cardiac damage biomarkers (CK-MB, LDH, and AST) as compared to a healthy control group ($P \leq 0.05$). Naringin, hesperidin and their combinations groups treatment showed significant regression in these biomarkers ($P \leq 0.05$). Excepted that is no significant change in CK-MB and AST in combinations groups treatment as compared to the CD group and no significant change in LDH in the hesperidin treated group as compared to the CD group.

In the CD group, a BNP was enhanced as compared to a healthy control group ($P \leq 0.05$). Treated groups including naringin, hesperidin and their combinations showed a significant decline in BNP level ($P \leq 0.05$).

Moreover, the levels of inflammatory markers including CRP and TNF- α in the CD group were elevated as compared to a healthy control group ($P \leq 0.05$). All treated groups naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations found a significant regression in these biomarkers ($P \leq 0.05$).

We found a significant increase in oxidative stress biomarkers including (ox-LDL, SOD and MDA) in the CD group as compared to the healthy control group ($P \leq 0.05$). While, the treatment either with naringin, hesperidin and their combinations showed a significant decrease in these biomarkers ($P \leq 0.05$). Also, no significant change in ox-LDL in either hesperidin and combination-treated groups as compared to the CD group.

Our results demonstrated a positive significant correlation between heart-type fatty-acid-binding protein and troponins I ($r = 0.800$, $P = 0.0001$) and troponins T ($r = 0.862$, $P = 0.0001$) (Figure 1). Also, there was a positive correlation between myosin light-chain kinase I and troponins I ($r = 0.647$, $P = 0.0001$) and troponins T ($r = 0.796$, $P = 0.0001$) (Figure 2). As well as, a positive correlation found between heart-type fatty-acid-binding protein and myosin light-chain kinase I ($r = 0.807$, $P = 0.0001$) (Figure 3).

The results in figure (4) demonstrated a positive correlation between heart-type fatty acid-binding protein and creatine kinase MB fraction ($r = 0.702$, $P = 0.0001$) and aspartate aminotransferase ($r = 0.660$, $P = 0.0001$). Histopathological results are shown in figure (5) (A-E).

Table 1: Effect of naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations on cardiac myocyte injury biomarkers in all studied groups.

Groups Parameters	Control	CD	CD + Nar	CD + Hes	CD + Nar + Hes
cTn-I (pg/ml)	14.97 \pm 1.02	95.91 \pm 3.24 ^a	22.46 \pm 3.35 ^{a,b}	19.00 \pm 2.20 ^b	16.19 \pm 0.78 ^b
cTn-T (pg/ml)	58.41 \pm 3.94	302.20 \pm 1.77 ^a	85.39 \pm 2.57 ^{a,b}	176.59 \pm 5.25 ^{a,b,c}	82.23 \pm 4.77 ^{a,b,d}
FABP3 (ng/ml)	0.72 \pm 0.15	2.42 \pm 0.07 ^a	1.21 \pm 0.10 ^{a,b}	1.35 \pm 0.17 ^{a,b}	0.77 \pm 0.08 ^{b,c,d}
MYLK (pg/ml)	66.99 \pm 4.13	207.02 \pm 19.14 ^a	137.47 \pm 1.69 ^{a,b}	149.54 \pm 15.27 ^{a,b}	70.48 \pm 3.52 ^{b,c,d}

Data are expressed as mean \pm standard error; percentage change versus control. a: significance versus control; b: significance versus CD; c: significance versus CD + Nar; d: significance versus CD + Hes.

Table 2: Effect of naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations on cardiac damage biomarkers in all studied groups.

Groups Parameters	Control	CD	CD + Nar	CD + Hes	CD + Nar + Hes
CK-MB (ng/ml)	0.40 \pm 0.03	1.43 \pm 0.23 ^a	0.63 \pm 0.10 ^b	0.74 \pm 0.03 ^{a,b}	0.42 \pm 0.03 ^{c,d}
LDH (ng/ml)	2.06 \pm 0.09	5.00 \pm 0.64 ^a	3.43 \pm 0.33 ^{a,b}	4.21 \pm 0.36 ^a	3.72 \pm 0.30 ^{a,b}
AST (U/ml)	52.46 \pm 0.40	57.78 \pm 0.45 ^a	54.28 \pm 0.90 ^{a,b}	53.63 \pm 0.73 ^b	52.92 \pm 0.65 ^a

Data are expressed as mean \pm standard error ; percentage change versus control. a: significance versus control; b: significance versus CD; c: significance versus CD + Nar; d: significance versus CD + Hes.

Table 3: Effect of naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations on Brain Natriuretic Peptide in all studied groups.

Groups Parameters	Control	CD	CD + Nar	CD + Hes	CD + Nar + Hes
BNP (pg/ml)	93.76±2.00	400.27±38.91 ^a	178.81±20.75 ^{a,b}	256.68±30.96 ^{a,b}	202.04±32.35 ^{a,b}

Data are expressed as mean± standard error; percentage change versus control. a: significance versus control; b: significance versus CD; c: significance versus CD + Nar; d: significance versus CD + Hes.

Table 4: Effect of naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations on inflammatory markers in all studied groups.

Groups Parameters	Control	CD	CD + Nar	CD + Hes	CD + Nar + Hes
CRP (ng/ml)	3.59±0.30	7.74±0.13 ^a	4.85±0.39 ^{a,b}	5.10±0.21 ^{a,b}	5.31±0.17 ^{a,b}
TNF-α (pg/ml)	96.76±7.35	138.60±0.68 ^a	117.14±0.90 ^{a,b}	122.41±1.28 ^{a,b}	101.55±1.76 ^{b,c,d}

Data are expressed as mean± standard error; percentage change versus control. a: significance versus control; b: significance versus CD; c: significance versus CD + Nar; d: significance versus CD + Hes.

Table 5: Effect of naringin, hesperidin, and their combinations on oxidative stress markers in different studied groups.

Groups Parameters	Control	CD	CD + Nar	CD + Hes	CD + Nar + Hes
OxLDL(pg/ml)	6.06±0.67	9.02±0.87 ^a	6.13±0.78 ^b	7.65±0.64	7.15±1.31
SOD (U/ml)	709.18±7.90	645.51±1.64 ^a	695.86±12.42 ^b	688.37±12.85 ^b	693.79±13.18 ^b
MDA(nmol/ml)	3.29±0.04	5.12±0.35 ^a	4.26±0.12 ^{a,b}	4.50±0.43 ^{a,b}	4.24±0.005 ^{a,b}

Data are expressed as mean± standard error; percentage change versus control. a: significance versus control; b: significance versus CD; c: significance versus CD + Nar; d: significance versus CD + Hes.

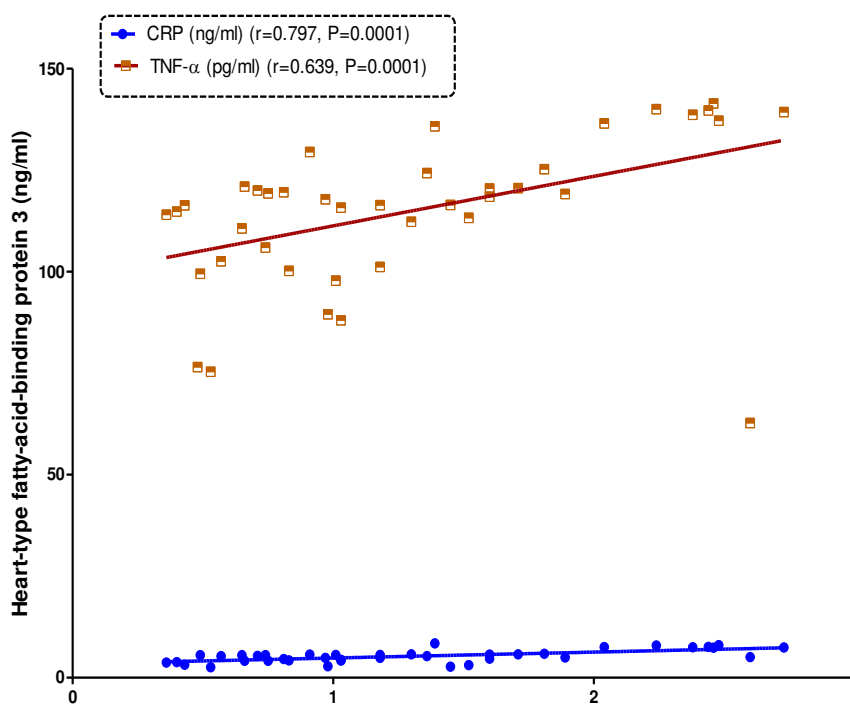


Figure 1: Correlation between heart-type fatty acid-binding protein 3 and C-reactive protein (CRP) and tumor necrosis factor –α (TNF-α) in all the studied groups.

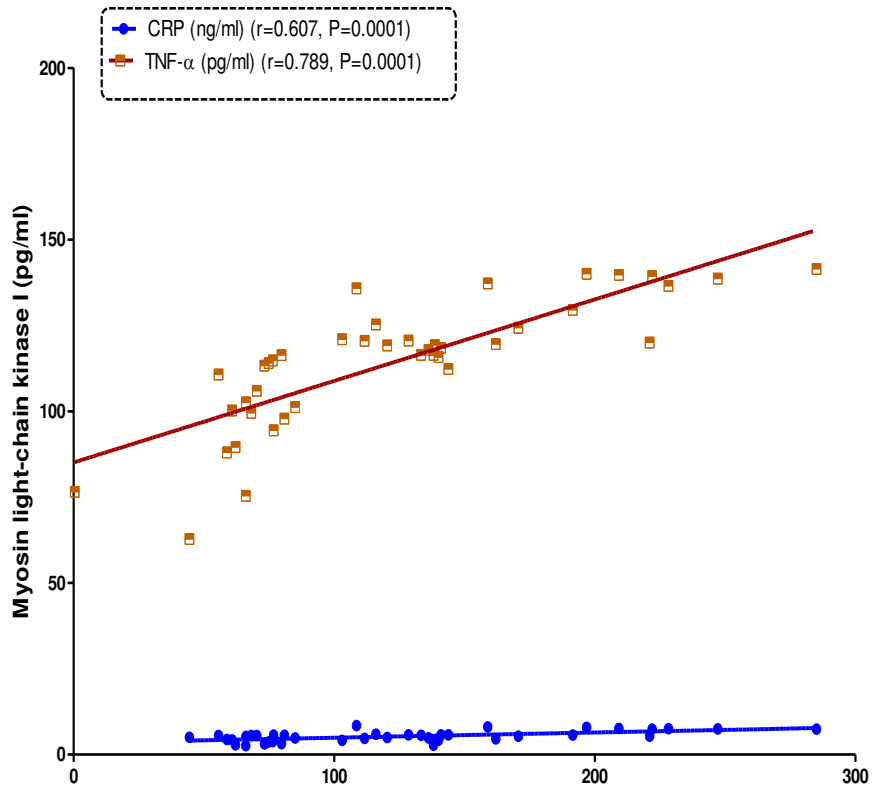


Figure 2: Correlation between Myosin light chain kinase I (pg/ml) and C-reactive protein (CRP) and tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) in all the studied group.

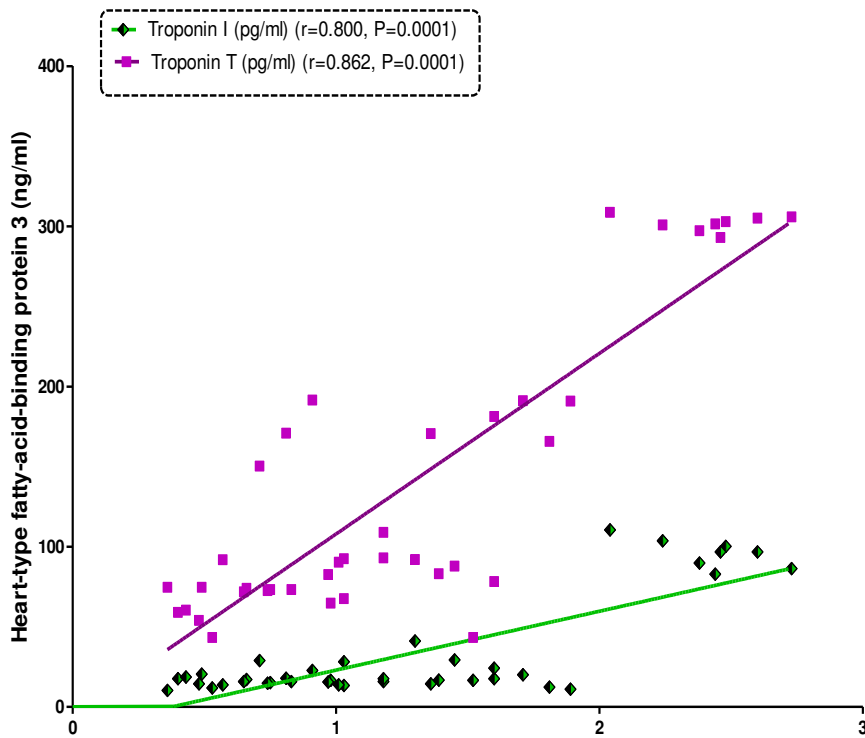


Figure 3: Correlation between heart-type fatty acid-binding protein 3 and Troponin I and Troponin T in all the studied groups.

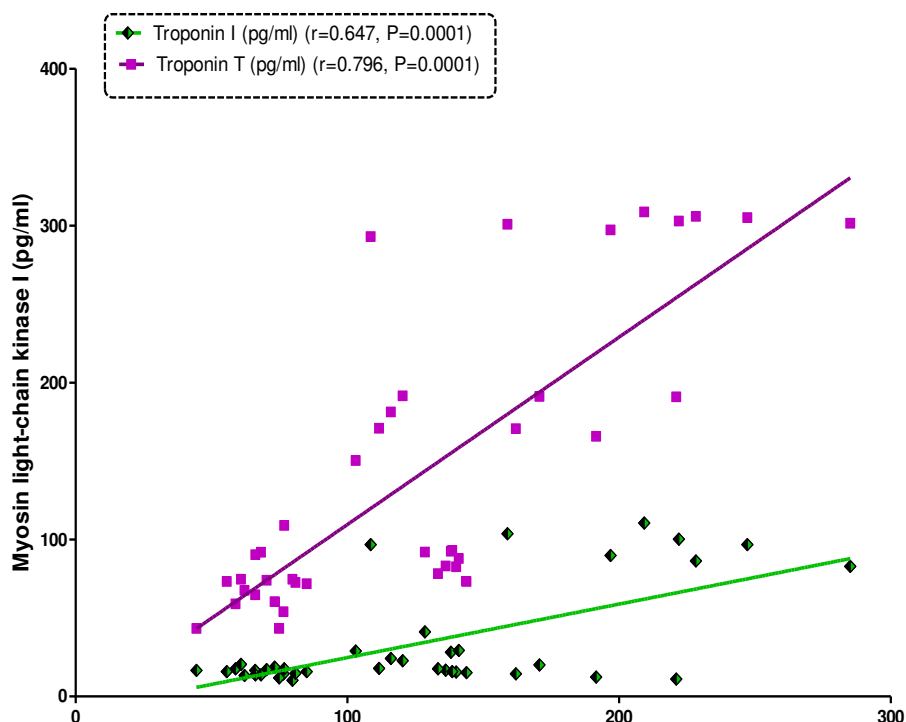


Figure 4: Correlation between myosin light chain kinase and Troponin I and Troponin T in all the studied groups.

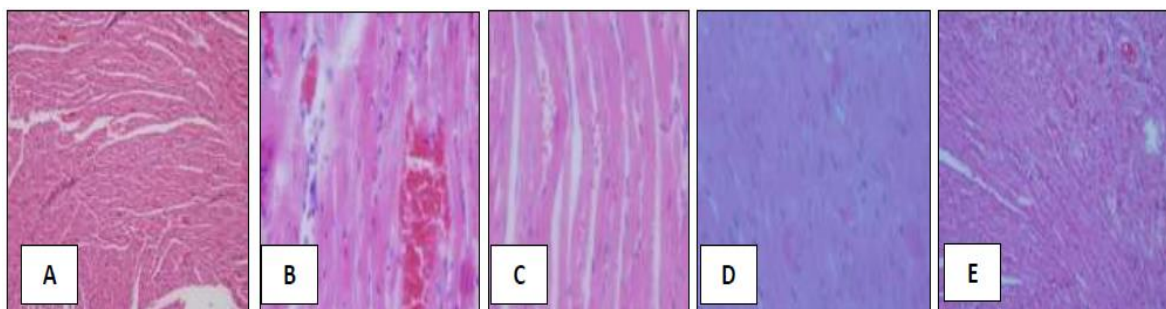


Figure 5: (A) photomicrograph of a healthy control group showing a normal histological structure of the heart in a healthy control group. (X60). The figures showed myocardial cells with prominent nuclei and blood vessels. Spiral shaped fibroblasts of connective tissues surrounding the myocardial smooth muscles.

(B) Photomicrograph of heart section of Rats with induced cardiac damage (CD). (X60). The figures showed a loss of myocardial fibers and vacuolated cells with profuse bleeding. (C) Photomicrograph of heart section of Rats with induced cardiac damage (CD) treated with Naringin. (X60). The figures showed myocardial fibers and vacuolated cells with dilated blood vessels with less bleeding. (D) Photomicrograph of heart section of Rats with induced cardiac damage (CD) treated with Hesperidin. (X60). The figures showed myocardial cells with prominent nuclei and blood vessels. (E) Photomicrograph of heart section of Rats with induced cardiac damage (CD) treated with Naringin & Hesperidin. (X60). The figures showed myocardial cells with prominent nuclei and profuse blood.

In the last three figures, found the Spiral shaped fibroblasts of connective tissues surrounding the myocardial smooth muscles are also clearly seen.

DISCUSSION

This study demonstrated the propensity of Adriamycin to induce cardiac damage. The reported high levels of FABP supported this result, MYLK, cTn-I, and cTn-T as compared to the control group. These findings were similar to those reported Zhang *et al.* [23]. The study illustrated that Adriamycin induces oxidative stress,

inflammation, and apoptosis. Furthermore, Setsuta *et al.* also found high levels of FABP, which was linked to the manifestation of cardiac diseases among patients suffering from chronic heart failure [24]. The rats that were treated with Adriamycin had lower levels of mRNA for myosin light chain in cardiac muscles. These alterations in the expression of genes in cardiocyte cultures and cardiac muscles explain the changes in the structure of the heart muscles and are linked to myofibrillar loss that is evident in adriamycin cardiac injury [25]. A previous study has provided evidence that Adriamycin impacts the expression of myocardial structure and regulatory proteins, such as MYLK [26].

Other biomarkers that are affected were the cardiac troponins troponin I/T (cTnI/T). These biomarkers are highly specific to cardiac dysregulation [27]. In the current study, there was an elevated level of cTn-I and cTn-T in the cardiac dysfunction induced group. These findings were agreed with findings reported by Bertinchant *et al.*, where a strong association between maximal level of serum cTnT, the extent of myocardial morphological changes, and echocardiographic LV diameters in the rat model [28]. In previous studies, it was reported that levels of LDH, CK-MB, and AST were high in rats after the administration of Adriamycin. The elevation of the LDH, CK-MB, and AST was a sign of damage to the heart muscles. The results corresponded with those previously reported by Nimbal and Koti [29]. Nimbal and colleagues also reported high levels of LDH and CK-MB in blood signifying damage in the heart muscles [30].

There are high levels of AST in heart tissues, and the presence of this enzyme in serum is an indication of damage in heart muscles and consequent release of the enzyme in blood [30]. The increase in heart lipid peroxides following treatment with adriamycin can explain the scenario [31].

The heart muscles secrete natriuretic peptides due to distension in the ventricular wall [32]. The findings of the current study demonstrated that there was a high level of BNP in the cardiac dysfunction induced group of the experimental mice relative to the control group. Similar findings were reported by ElGhandour *et al.* [33]. Our data also reported high levels of TNF- α in the CD group as compared to the control group. Abdel-Daim *et al.* reported similar results, where they reported that adriamycin-induced acute inflammation [34].

There was, however a significant increase in levels of ox-LDL and MDA. The levels of SOD were decreased in the CD group as compared to the control group. These findings could be explained by the fact that adriamycin can induce oxygen-derived free radical formation [35].

A previous study showed that naringin could potentially reduce cardiac dysfunction [36]. Moreover, it has been shown that Naringin has an anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant and anti-apoptotic effect and can reduce the effects of myocardial injury in the experiment [37].

The results of the current study also showed a significant reduction in FABP, MYLK, cTn-I, and cTn-T levels in a group of experimental mice treated with naringin. These results were in agreement with those reported by Kanno *et al.* [38]. A study by Rajadurai and Prince demonstrated the positive effect of naringin in influencing the levels of cTnT and the activities of cardiac marker enzymes [39]. The levels of CK-MB, LDH, and AST in mice group treated with naringin significantly decrease confirming the results previously reported by Ahmed *et al.* [40]. Ahmed reported an increase in the activity of plasma CK-MB observed.

Besides, a major reduction in BNP was reported in a group of experimental rats treated with naringin. One of the explanations to this result that naringin can protect the heart muscles by controlling heart enzymes [41]. The result also showed a decrease in TNF- α and CRP levels in the mice CD group. Chen and colleagues have also reported that naringin reduces cardiovascular diseases [42, 43]. Other studies have shown that naringin has the propensity to regulate the release of SOD and MDA [36]. Natural compounds in citrus fruits can protect the body from oxidative stress by antioxidant activity and through the scavenging of free radicals [44].

The current study showed that there was a significant reduction in FABP, MYLK, cTn-I, and cTn-T levels in the hesperidin treated group. These findings are supported by the fact that Hesperidin has anti-carcinogenic, vascular protective, and lipid-lowering activities [45]. Our results were also in agreement with those reported by Li *et al.* [46]. Another intriguing finding was the activity of Hesperidin to reduce the function of plasma cardiac troponin T and I levels. This effect is an indication of Hesperidin in protecting the heart [47]. This activity can be linked to Hesperidin calcium channel blocking activity [48]. The current study has confirmed the reduction of cardiac markers including CK-MB, LDH and AST in a group administered with hesperidin. This finding can be explained by the fact that treatment with hesperetin led to reduction of adriamycin-induced DNA damage [21]. The reported result was supported by those previously obtained by Agrawal *et al.* [49]. Besides, we reported a major reduction in TNF- α and CRP in rat group administered with hesperidin and the result agreed with Rizza *et al.* [50]. Rizza reported positive effects of hesperidin on endothelial function. The current study result reported that there was a

decrease in oxidative stress biomarkers, including ox-LDL and MDA, whereas SOD levels in the hesperidin administered the group. These findings corroborated with the findings reported by Jagdish *et al.* [51].

It has previously been established that hesperidin has a function in reducing oxidative stress. Emerging evidence shows that hesperidin protects cardiac tissue through its antihypertensive and antioxidant abilities [52]. The results of this study showed that there was a major reduction in oxidative stress markers, including ox-LDL and MDA. This result was in line with the findings reported by Jagdish *et al.* [51].

The data reported by the current study were confirmed by performing histopathological investigations on cardiac tissues. The investigations revealed that adriamycin intoxication caused serious myocardial degeneration manifested as myofibrillar loss, vacuolization, inflammation, and interstitial edema. The same pattern of histopathological alterations was previously reported in acute adriamycin-induced cardiotoxicity [53]. However, Naringin treatment did not cause observable changes in the structure of the heart muscles. This finding implied that naringin helped to reduce adriamycin-induced acute cardiotoxicity [54].

Microscopic examination of the heart tissues also suggested that adriamycin treatment caused morphological changes, including the reorganization of cellular arrangement and vacuolization. Treatment of rats with Hesperetin concurrently resulted in a reduction in alteration of cellular structure in the cardiac muscles [21].

A combination of treatment groups showed a significantly ameliorative effect in myocardial infarction as compared to the administration of single compounds such as in adriamycin-induced rats, with the reduced cTn-I, FABP3 and MYLK levels in serum analysis. However, the effects of cTn-T levels in combinatory administration were the same relative to the naringin group. The markers for cardiac damage showed a greater effect in combination administration group in the levels of CK-MB and AST. However, the LDH level in the naringin administered group showed a better amelioration compared to the combination-treated group.

CONCLUSION

The study findings demonstrated the powerful biological effects of naringin and hesperidin in the treatment of heart diseases. Both the biochemical and microscopic examinations revealed that naringin and hesperidin administration could protect the heart from Adriamycin-induced myocardial infarction. These compounds act through their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects.

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