

## Effect Toxicity of Silver Nanoparticles on Biochemical Markers and Oxidative Stress in Adult Male Wistar Rats

Prof. Dr. Najlaa Abdulameer Ali Al-Dahhan<sup>1</sup>, Prof. Dr. Hawraa Abdulameer Ali Al-Dahhan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Basic Science, College of Dentistry, University of Kufa, Al-Najaf, Iraq.

<sup>2</sup>College of Science, University of Kufa, Al-Najaf, Iraq.

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The assessment the health risks of silver nanoparticles(AgNPs) has become extremely important due to increase their use in all fields i.e., health,industry ,commerce etc.

**Objectives:** To assess the toxicity of oral AgNPs by assessing the activity of liver enzymes; AST, ALT, GGT,and ALP.Also,assess induction of ROS and the concentration of LHP in male Wistar rats.

**Materials and Methods:** The study included 60 adult male Wistar rats, divided into five groups in each group 12 rats, groups 1 to 4 were orally exposed to AgNPs,once daily for one week at doses of 10,35,75 and 100 mg/kg,Bwt. The fifth group included acontrol group.Venous blood was collected after 24 hours of end the experiment. Serum TP,TBil and Alb were measured using an autoanalyzer.The chromatic method was used to measure serum ALT,AST,ALP ,and GGT levels according to the instructions of trade kits were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. LHP kits purchased from Calbiochem.ROS production were estimate according to Lawler et al.method **Results:** No significant changes were observed in serumTP, TBil, and Alb levels between rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs and the control group( $P>0.05$ ).Increased serum ALT,AST,ALP, GGT levels,induction of ROS and increased concentration of LHP in rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs with increasing dose concentration of AgNPs compared with control group( $p<0.05$ ).The highest two doses(75 and100)mg/kg showed increase statistically significant in levels of enzymes,LHP concentration,and induction ROS in rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs compared to other and controls ( $p<0.05$ ).The results from DLS showed agglomeration of AgNPs more than their base volume and the potential value of Zeta AgNPs was-35mV.Histopathological examination show occurrence of central vein damage,hepato cellular vacuolation, necrosis and Pycknotic in livers of rats after exposed to AgNPs.

**Conclusions:** Depending on these findings,it can be said that the short-term administration of high doses from silver nanoparticles causes increased serum enzymes activity,increased LHPconcentration,oxidative stress, stimulation of ROS and organ toxicity.

**KEYWORD:** *Silvernanoparticles; aminotransferases; alkalinephosphatase; lipid hydroperoxide; reactive oxygen species.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology is concerned with the production of engineering nanoparticles (Hussain and Schlager,2009). AgNPs are used in food industries,kitchen appliances, packaging materials, household appliances and medical fields especially in wound care products(Bartlomiejczyk et al.,2013; Munger et al.,2014). AgNPs have anti-bacterial and

anti-microbial properties(Xu et al.,2012;Kulthong et al., 2012;Pourhamzeh et al.,2016).In recent years,its applications have increased dramatically in various medicines,laboratory evidence,cosmetics, etc.AgNPs induce effective cellular toxicity and pro-inflammatory effects(Dziendzikowska et al.,2012). AgNPs stimulate production of ROS and release of inflammatory cytokines(Xu et al.,2012).ROS is continually

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generated in living systems during biological reactions, in turn, occurs reduction of endogenous or exogenous antioxidants (Goodarzi et al., 2014; Mohammadi et al., 2015). Excessive production of ROS can lead to DNA damage and programmed cell death (Xu et al., 2012). Programmed cell death begins with the activation of the caspase chain, which is one group of cysteine proteins found in cells as inactive enzymes (Eckle et al., 2004). ROS plays a beneficial and harmful role in biological reactions, so it has been proposed as a potential toxic mechanism. It has harmful effects by disrupting the functions of some enzymes by oxidizing amino acids in proteins, oxidation of cofactors in their structure, oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids in fats and then DNA damage (Tampa et al., 2018). Permanent exposure of AgNPs generates the ability to interact with biological tissues and produce ROS in large quantities. The production of free radicals and lipid hydroperoxide (LHP) is related to the toxicity of nanomaterials (Murray et al., 1988). Consequently, injury and cell death can occur as a result of oxidative damage to the polyunsaturated fatty acid known as LHP (Gutteridge and Quinlan, 1983; Halliwell, 1984). The oxidative damage to lipid membranes can be assessed by estimating the quantities of LHP (De Zwart et al., 1999).

Liver cells and tissues are targets of attack by various of ROS and lipid peroxide, which are associated with the electron transport chain in metabolism and possibly hepatotoxicity. This study was conducted to evaluate the effect the toxicity of AgNPs on biochemical parameters and liver tissue in adult male Wistar rats. Therefore, our findings are extremely important to assess health risks due to the increased use of new nanoscale products in daily life. Therefore, findings are important for assessing health risks due to the increased use of new nanoproducts in in daily life.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

AgNPs were obtained in water at a volume (10) nm, AgNPs were suspended directly in deionized water (DI water) and dispersed by ultrasound vibration (100W, 30KHz) for 30 minutes to produce four concentrations different at 10, 35, 75 and 100 mg/kg.

The study included 60 adult male Wistar rats, ranging in age from 3-4 months, and weighing between  $200 \pm 25$  g. The temperature was  $250^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the light (12 hours light / 12 hours darkness). It was supplied with food from food establishments, and water is drinking water used by citizens in the city of Najaf. Rats adapted to the laboratory environment within 10 days, rats were randomly divided into 5 groups, 12 rats in each group. rats were orally exposed to AgNPs daily using Gavage for one week, according to the method (Park et al., 2010). Groups from 1 to 4 received doses in different concentrations from the orally AgNPs (10, 35, 75 and 100 mg/kg), respectively using special needles, one dose per 24 hours for one week. Each rat, in the group received seven doses at 24-hour intervals. The fifth group, serving as a control group, received only deionized distilled water. AgNPs

were diluted with deionized water. Laboratory animals were cared for according to international laws and principles relating to animal use in biomedical research according to (Giles, 1987). Blood samples were collected after end the experiment, and allowed to coagulate for 45 minutes at room temperature. After coagulation, serum was centrifuged at  $1500 \times g$  for 10 min. Serum total protein (TP), total bilirubin (TBil) and albumin (Alb) were measured using an autoanalyzer (Hitachi 7180, Hitachi, Japan). The chromatic method was used to measure serum aspartate transaminase (AST), alanine transaminase (ALT), gamma glutamyltranspeptidase (GGT) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) levels according to the instructions of trade kits were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Lipid hydroperoxide (LHP) kits purchased from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA, USA), according to Anita et al. (2015) method. The mixture was incubated for (5) min and absorption was recorded for each sample using optical spectrophotometer (2800, Unicop spectrophotometer, USA) at a wavelength (500) nm. Where lipid hydro-peroxides were directly measured which use oxidation and reduction reactions with iron ions, and the resulting hydrocarboxides are highly unstable and interact easily with ferric ions, use calbiochem and the resulting ferric ions are discovered using chromogen ion thiocyanate. Fig. 1. The standard curve for the examination of Lipid hydro peroxides (LPO) shows where the y-axis represents the absorbance at (500) nm while the x-axis represents the concentrations of the reference standard (nmol). ROS production were estimate according to Lawler et al. (2003) method, Use hydrogen peroxide (30%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), to evaluate the probe interactivity. The AgNPs sample was analyzed by DLS (dynamic light scattering), to understand the state of particle dispersion when placed in a DI water (deionized). After stupefying the rats using diethyl ether and dying, the livers were separated and preserved in 10% formalin. Liver tissue was prepared according to common histological methods and preserved with paraffin blocks. The blocks were cut to a diameter of 4-5  $\mu\text{m}$ , and these put on glassy slides, then cleaned of paraffin and watered. To be ready for the microscopy, the slides were stained with the Haematoxylin-Eosin (H&E) method, according to Humason (1967) method.

### STATISTICAL METHODS.

All data were presented as a standard mean error ( $M \pm \text{SEM}$ ). Data were subjected to statistical analysis using Graph pad Prism 5 (GraphPad Software Inc., San Diego, CA) and significant difference between groups was done by student's t- test with a *P-value* of  $<0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

### RESULTS

No significant changes were observed in serum TP, TBil, and Alb levels between rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs

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and the control group ( $P > 0.05$ ) Table 1. Increased serum ALT, AST, ALP, GGT levels, induction of ROS and increased concentration of LHP in rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs with increasing dose concentration of AgNPs compared with control group ( $p < 0.05$ ) Table 1. The highest two doses (75 and 100) mg/kg showed increase statistically significant in levels of enzymes, LHP concentration, and induction ROS in rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs compared to other and controls ( $p < 0.05$ ) Table 1. The results from DLS showed agglomeration of AgNPs more than their base volume and the potential value of Zeta AgNPs was -35 mV. The Ag<sup>+</sup> ions release were shown in Fig. 2. Histopathological examination show occurrence of central vein damage, hepato cellular vacuolation, necrosis and Pycknotic in livers of rats after exposed to AgNPs Fig. 3.

### DISCUSSION

Use of AgNPs is more effective compared to larger molecules. Several studies have pointed to the toxicity of nanoparticles (Munger et al., 2014), which stimulate oxidative stress in liver cells (Xu et al., 2012), DNA damage in testicular cells (Asare et al., 2012), and Programmed cell death in heLa cells (Miura and Shinohara, 2009). In this study, no significant changes were observed in serum TP, TBil, and Alb levels between rats groups that orally exposed to AgNPs and the control group ( $P > 0.05$ ) Table 1.

The enzymes are inside the liver cells, and an increase in the levels of these enzymes is an indication of problems or damage in the liver (Gavanji et al., 2014; Parang and Moghadamnia, 2018). However, aminotransferase are the most sensitive enzymes, and to check for liver damage their activity is the first evaluated. Liver function were assessed in rats by measuring the activity of serum enzymes (ALT, AST, ALP and GGT) after administration with different doses of AgNPs. The vital features of hepatotoxins and oxidative stress were evaluated by measuring ROS and LHP concentrations. The results of the study showed an increase in the activity of liver enzymes (ALT, AST, ALP and GGT), the induction of ROS and increased concentration of LHP with increased exposure to AgNPs in treated rats groups compared to the control group Table 1. The size and exposure period of the nanoparticles play an important role in variation their toxicity. The increased in serum enzymes activities is a strong indicator of inflammation and liver cell damage, impaired kidney function, and cholesterol behavior, etc. On the other hand, any obstruction or defect that occurs in the liver includes the biliary drainage system and this imbalance leads to a significant increase in the activity of alkaline phosphatase. These results were consistent with previous reports (Anita et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2008; Parang and Moghadamnia, 2018). Akradi et al. (2012) indicated that nanoparticles create free radicals and oxidative stress, and through the oxidative stress mechanism free radicals attack living tissues, causing damage to tissues and organs. While, Ling song et al. (2012) confirmed that AgNPs

cause damage to cell membranes and reduce the activity of superoxide dismutases (SOD) and glutathione peroxidase (GPX). These studies are consistent with the results of our current study which indicated an increase in the production of reactive oxygen species in the cellular environment with an increase in the concentration of nanomaterials doses given to rats (Anita et al., 2015; Gavanji et al., 2014).

Park et al. (2010) reported high levels of ALP and AST in rats after treatment with different concentrations (0.25, 0.5 and 1) mg/kg from AgNPs and at a volume 42 nm.

Contrary to our results, Pourhamzeh et al. (2016) indicated that using different concentrations of AgNPs for a period of 28 days had no effects on liver function, i.e. it did not cause major disorders in rats liver cells ( $P > 0.05$ ), but did lead to early stages of apoptosis. Also, Kulthong et al. (2012) noted that treating rats with 180 nm of AgNPs at doses of 50, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 mg/kg/day for two weeks did not have a significant effect of altering serum ALT and AST levels. AST, ALT, and ALP are present in hepatocytes under normal conditions, and after cell damage, they are released into the serum (Geho et al., 2006). Gavanji et al. (2014) they indicated that spherical AgNPs with a diameter of 4 nm were unable to influence and alter the activity of enzymes. We observed that 10 mg/kg of AgNPs spherical increased the activity of rats liver enzymes Table 1.

The highest two doses (75 and 100) mg/kg of AgNPs showed a statistically significant increase in enzymes levels, concentration LHP and induction of ROS in the exposed rats groups compared to the other groups and controls ( $p < 0.05$ ) Table 1. This indicates to DNA damage, as increased ROS in the cellular environment lead to damage, and large amounts of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> play an important role in DNA damage and oxidation of cellular proteins. These results are consistent with other studies (Anita et al., 2015; Gavanji et al., 2014).

High levels of enzymes do not necessarily cause damage to liver cells, however, large amounts of AgNPs are given to rats over 100 mg/kg Bwt. AgNPs often cause hyperactivity, weight loss, altered liver enzymes, altered neurotransmitter levels, enlarged heart, reduced immunity and then death (Anita et al., 2015; Hadrup and Lam, 2014).

The levels of LHPs were measured to determine the role of oxidative stress in toxicity resulting from AgNPs in liver cells. The results showed an increase in the levels of LHPs with an increased dose of AgNPs. However, the highest doses (75 and 100) mg/kg showed a statistically significant increase in the LHP concentration in groups exposed to AgNPs compared to the other groups and controls ( $P < 0.05$ ) Table 1. These results are consistent with previous studies (Wu and Zhou, 2013; Anreddy et al., 2013). It is important to distinguish the toxic effects of AgNPs and dissolved Ag ions. AgNPs and released ions are easily bind to proteins and DNA within the cell, causing their destruction. The amount of silver ions released during dispersion was quantified, and the toxicity may also arise

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from aqueous silver ions. Therefore, if the ionic silver (colloidal silver) emitted from the surface of the particles was responsible for the toxicity of AgNPs, then it is possible that smaller particles would be responsible compared to the larger particles due to the larger surface area per unit of weight. Several studies support this interpretation (Anita et al., 2015; Pratsinis et al., 2013) and several reports have indicated that smaller nanoparticles are more toxic than larger particles (Park et al., 2010; Gavanji et al., 2014). Silver and nanoparticles bind to living organic tissues and cause poisoning, cellular damage, cell activation and production of ROS which is a source of inflammation and programmed cell death (Xia et al., 2006).

AgNPs enter the bloodstream and collect in the liver, spleen, lung, kidney and brain etc. Fig. 3. Shown histopathological characterization (H & E Staining 200 X) of liver in adult male Wistar rats exposed to AgNPs at different concentrations (10, 35, 75 and 100 mg/kg for one week and control group). Central vein and normal hepatocytes were visible in the control group treated with deionized water only. Observed occurrence of central vein damage, hepato cellular vacuolation, necrosis and pyknotic in livers of rats after exposed to AgNPs. These results are consistent with other studies (Parang and Moghadamnia, 2018; Ajobola et al., 2019). Agglomerations of AgNPs may reduce surface area. AgNPs were given to rats caused damage in liver tissues, because the liver was center of deposition of those particles, and this led to changes in the serum enzymes activities. The effect of nanoparticles depends on their size, diameter and shape (Anita et al., 2015; Pourhamzeh et al., 2016). AgNPs which rats were exposed accumulate in liver, and are absorbed through the mesenteric vein through the portal system and then distributed into the liver tissue. This fact is confirmed by previous studies (Anita et al., 2015; Pourhamzeh et al., 2016; Gavanji et al., 2014). Park et al. (2010) observed accumulation of AgNPs throughout the liver, lung, brain, kidney and testis after orally exposed to 1 mg/kg for 14 days at sizes less than 100 nm, whereas the larger sizes (323 nm) of AgNPs were not detected in those tissues. These studies are consistent with our current results, as the levels of specific parameters increased with increasing doses of nanoparticles (Moudgi and Robert, 2006; Gavanji et al., 2014; Anita et al., 2015).

### CONCLUSIONS

High and short-term doses of AgNPs cause liver toxicity, increase oxidative stress and DNA damage. AgNPs have harmful effects on a wide range of cells, human health and the environment. The high toxicity of nanomaterials and especially AgNPs does not mean that they are banned from biomedical applications. On the contrary, further studies are carried out to determine its toxicity to the living body and its environmental and occupational hazards. More detailed studies with smaller AgNPs and longer exposed periods are necessary to assess their direct effects.

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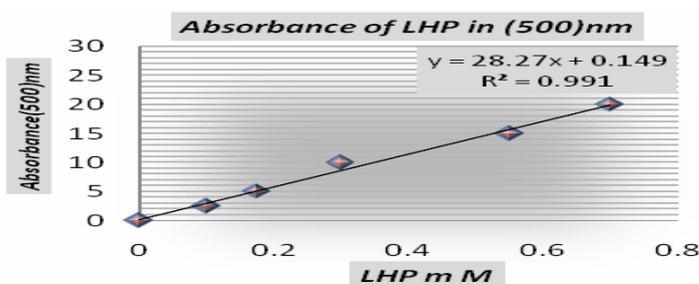
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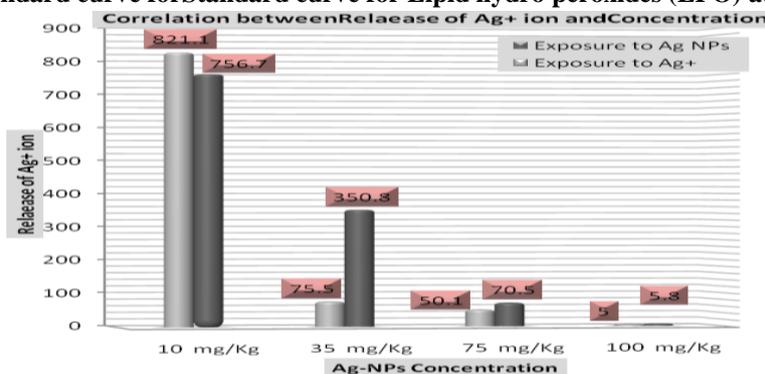
**Table 1.** Effect different concentrations from AgNPs for one week on the levels of biochemical parameters, lipid hydroperoxides and reactive oxygen species in liver of adult male Wistar rats and control.

Parameters	Control(n=12)	Ag-NPs mg/Kg Bwt.(n=48)			
	Mean± SD	Mean ± SD			
	0 mg/Kg	10 mg/Kg	35 mg/Kg	75 mg/Kg	100 mg/Kg
T Bil mg/dL	0.42 ± 0.07	0.40 ± 0.08	0.32 ± 0.06	0.42 ± 0.07	0.42 ± 0.06
Alb mg/dL	4.14 ± 0.03	4.55 ± 0.03	4.01 ± 0.18	4.00 ± 0.18	4.08 ± 0.25
TP mg/dL	4.32 ± 0.40	7.22 ± 0.23	5.35 ± 0.46	5.35 ± 0.88	4.88 ± 0.47
ALT IU/I	0.187 ± 0.04	0.488 ± 0.06	0.522 ± 0.05	0.675 ± 0.07*	0.787 ± 0.08*
AST IU/I	0.343 ± 0.023	0.422 ± 0.03	0.664 ± 0.064	0.755 ± 0.027*	0.886 ± 0.045*
ALP IU/I	0.135 ± 0.056	0.258 ± 0.065	0.344 ± 0.047	0.426 ± 0.042*	0.542 ± 0.058*
GGT IU/I	1.55 ± 0.22	1.75 ± 0.24	1.34 ± 0.11	1.34 ± 0.12*	1.62 ± 0.31*
LHP Mm	7.89 ± 3.06	24.8 ± 2.10	25.8 ± 3.84	35.78 ± 3.89*	60.89 ± 4.76*
ROS	10.75 ± 3.03	21.43 ± 3.74	23.76 ± 4.46	35.65 ± 5.42*	38.77 ± 9.78*

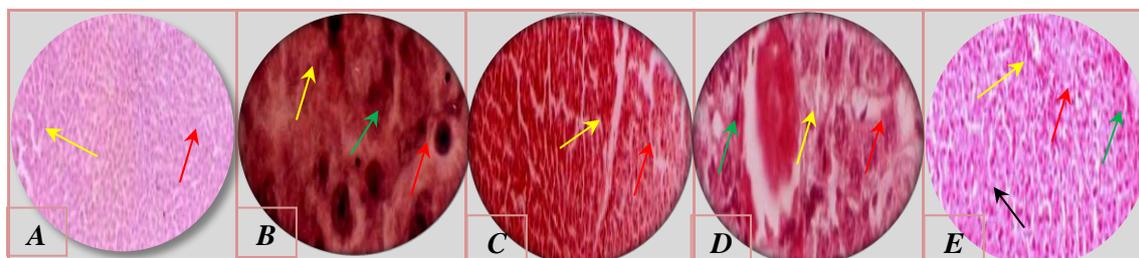
*Bwt, body weight. Data represents (mean ± SD). Statistical significance (p<0.05) is depicted as (\*).*



**Fig.1.** Standard curve for Lipid hydro peroxides (LPO) at 500 nm .



**Fig.2.** Average release of (Ag<sup>+</sup>) ions mg/Kg) to DI water for 1 week.



**Fig.3.** Histopathological Characterization(H & E Staining 200 X) of liver in adult male Wistar rats exposed to AgNPs; A:Negative Control Deionized water(red arrow:Central vein,yellow arrow: Hepatocytes). B:10 mg/kg exposed liver(red arrow:Central vein damage, yellow arrow:Hepato cellular vacuolation, green arrow:Necrosis). C: 35 mg/kg (red arrow:Central vein damage and yellow arrow: Necrosis).D:75mg/kg (red arrow:Central vein damage, yellow arrow:Hepato cellular vacuolation and green arrow:Pyknotic). E:100 mg/kg (red arrow:Central vein damage,yellow arrow:Hepato cellular vacuolation, green arrow :Necrosis and black arrow:Pyknotic).