The Comparison of the Effect of Diazinon and Paraoxon on Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress in Rat Serum

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Article information

Abstract

Background: Diazinon and paraoxon are a group of pesticide organophosphates which are widely used in agriculture. Some organophosphates increase the production of free radicals. This study aims to compare the effects of diazinon and paraoxon on biomarkers of oxidative stress in rat serum.

Materials and Methods: This experimental study was performed in 2010 in Baqiyatallah (a.s) University of Medical Sciences. 49 male Wistar rats were randomly divided into 7 groups: the control group was given corn oil as a solvent of diazinon and paraoxon and the other six groups were given diazinon at doses 30, 50 and 100 mg/kg and paraoxon at doses 0.3, 0.7 and 1 mg/kg intraperitoneally. 24 hours after the injection, blood was collected by cardiac puncture and serum was prepared. Then, the activities of butyrylcholinesterase enzyme (BChE), superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) and glutathione level (GSH) were measured by chemical methods.

Results: The decreased SOD and CAT activities and GSH level after administration of Diazinon (more than 30 mg/kg) and paraoxon (more than 0.3 mg/kg) is significant compared to control group, whereas the activity of LDH enzyme significantly increases. The decreased BChE activity is not significant compared to control group.

Conclusion: Diazinon and paraoxon induce the production of free radicals and oxidative stress in a dose-dependent manner. The decreased activity of antioxidant enzymes and depleted GSH content probably represent the antioxidant defense system failure against the toxic actions of free radicals and oxidative tissue damage. Paraoxon has more severe effects than diazinon.

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Introduction

Organophosphate compounds are widely used to control insects and ectoparasites. In addition, these compounds including tabon, sarin and malathion have been used in several chemical attacks by Iraqi forces during Iran-Iraq war. Due to the easy access and high toxicity of these compounds, the incidence of accidental poisoning and suicide is extensive and it is responsible for about one hundred thousand annual poisoning in the world. In Iran, these compounds are one of the reasons for deaths from poisoning [1, 2]. Diazinon (DZN) and paraoxon (POX) are of main organophosphate pesticides which are used for the control of various insects in crops, ornamental plants, fruit and vegetables. These compounds with amino acid serine phosphorylation in the active site of acetylcholinesterase enzyme leads to the inhibition of the enzyme and accumulation of acetylcholine in cholinergic synapses and cholinergic crisis, seizures and in acute cases, brain injury and death [2, 3]. Being under acute and sub-acute exposure of some organophosphates inhibits cholinesterase and increases the production of free radicals and oxidative stress. The reaction of free radicals with lipids in cell membranes causes lipid peroxidation and destruction of membrane structure. Harmful effects of free radicals is controlled by the cellular antioxidant defense system includes antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT). In addition, glutathione (GSH), as an antioxidant, increases the solubility and excretion of toxins through the kidneys. The imbalance between production of free radicals and antioxidant defense systems in the body is called oxidative stress, which causes many diseases [4, 5]. Studies showed that after administration of oral malathion to rats, changes of activity of antioxidant enzymes and increase of lipid peroxidation are observed in erythrocyte, saliva and plasma [2, 6]. On the other hand, by examination of the effect of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin on liver
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rat increased serum concentrations of liver function indices and changes in antioxidant parameters have been reported [7]. Due to the variation of substitutions in chemical structure of organophosphates and their different effects on different tissues, further studies are necessary to understand the mechanism of action of these compounds. Very few studies are conducted on the effects of diazinon on in vivo antioxidant system. In the present study, the effects of two toxins of DZN and POX on some indices of oxidative stress in rat serum have been compared.

Materials and Methods

Chemicals: Nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT), dithiobis 2-nitrobenzoic acid (DTNB), trichloroacetic acid (TCA) and other chemicals with high purity were purchased from Merck and Sigma Companies of Germany. Diazinons (purity of 100%) from Supelco-USA and ethyl paraoxon (purity of 99%) from Sigma Company were purchased. Stock solutions of DZN with concentration of 400 mg/ml and POX with concentration of 4 mg/ml were prepared freshly in corn oil.

This experimental study was performed in 2010 in Baqiyatallah (a.s) University of Medical Sciences. 49 male Wistar rats weighing 200-250 g were kept under natural conditions of light, darkness, food and water for a week to get accustomed to the environment in animal house of Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences. The animals were then randomly divided into 7 groups: the control group was given corn oil as a solvent and the other six groups were given DZN (at doses 30, 50 and 100 mg/kg) and POX (at doses 0.3, 0.7 and 1 mg/kg) intraperitoneally. 24 hours after the injection, blood was collected by cardiac puncture and serum was prepared and stored at −70ºC until biochemical analysis.

Butyrylcholinesterase activity measurement: Ellman method was used to measure the activity of cholinesterase [8]. 10 µl of serum was added to the cuvet containing 0.425 mM DTNB dissolved in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.5 with 490 µl of distilled water. Then, 0.5 ml of butylylcholine iodide of 20mM as substrate was added to the cuvet. It was incubated at 37ºC for 5 minutes. Then, 0.5 ml Quinidine sulfate was added to stop the reaction. The absorbance was read at wavelength of 412 nm for 5 minutes. Specific activity was calculated based on the unit/mg protein.

Measurement of SOD activity: SOD enzyme activity was measured using Winterbourn method [9]. 0.1 M EDTA in 0.3 mM sodium cyanide and 1.5 mM NBT were added to an appropriate volume of serum in a cuvet and after mixing, it was incubated at 37ºC for 5 minutes. Then, 0.12 mM riboflavin was added to 0.067 M potassium phosphate buffer with pH=7.8 and it was placed at room temperature for 10 minutes. The absorbance was read at a wavelength of 560 nm for 5 minutes and the specific activity was calculated by the unit per mg protein.

Measurement of CAT activity: The activity of CAT enzyme was measured by Aebi method [10]. The reaction was started by adding 30 mM H2O2 to an appropriate volume of serum in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer with pH=7. Then, the absorbance was read at a wavelength of 240 nm within 3 minutes. Specific activity was calculated based on the unit/mg protein.

Measurement of LDH activity: LDH enzyme activity was measured using Parsazmun Company kit of Iran. Sample absorbance at 340 nm was read within 3 minutes, and the specific activity was expressed by the unit per mg protein.

Determination of GSH concentration: Thietz method was used to determine GSH level [11]. An appropriate volume of serum was mixed with 5% Sulfoxalicylic acid. The sample was centrifuged at 2000 xg for 10 min at 4ºC. 100 µl of supernatant was added to 810 µl of 0.3 M disodium phosphate. Then the reaction was started by adding 90 µl of 0.04% DTNB in 0.1% sodium citrate. The absorbance changes at 412 nm were read within 5 minutes. Standard curves were plotted and glutathione concentration was calculated using 1mg/ml glutathione solution.

Protein assay: Bradford method was used to determine protein concentration [12]. Appropriate volume of serum reached the volume of 1ml to which 3ml of Bradford solution was added and was incubated for 10 minutes. Then, absorbance was read at 595 nm wavelength. Protein concentration was calculated using standard plotting using 1mg/ml bovine serum albumin solution (BSA).

Statistical analysis: Data analysis was performed using INSTAT software as one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey post-hoc multiple comparison test. p-values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. Data were expressed as Mean ± SD.

Results

The results of the effect of different doses of DZN and POX on the activity of serum butyrylcholinesterase enzyme in Fig. 1 shows that the change of butyrylcholinesterase enzyme activity is not significant compared to the control group.
Figure 1. The activity of serum butrylcholinesterase enzyme of rats treated with various doses of diazinon and paraoxon after 24 hours. The results of the effect of different doses of DZN and POX on the activity of SOD of serum in Fig. 2 shows that the decrease in SOD activity at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.3 mg/kg POX is significant compared to the control group. In addition, decreased activity of SOD at dose 100 mg/kg is significant compared to dose 30 mg/kg of DZN (p<0.01).

Figure 2. The activity of superoxide dismutase in serum after 24-hour at presence of different doses of diazinon and paraoxon. *p<0.05, **p < 0.01 and ***p < 0.001 vs. control.

The results of the effect of different doses of DZN and POX on the activity of CAT of serum in Fig. 3 shows that the decrease in CAT activity at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.3 mg/kg POX is significant compared to the control group. In addition, CAT activity at dose 1mg/kg significantly decreases compared to dose 0.3 mg/kg of POX (p < 0.05).

Figure 3. Serum catalase activity enzyme of rats treated with various doses of diazinon and paraoxon 24 hours after exposure. *p<0.05 and **p<0.01 vs. control.

The results of the effect of different doses of DZN and POX on the activity of LDH in serum in figure 4 shows that the increase in LDH activity at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.7 mg/kg POX is significant compared to the control group. The LDH enzyme activity in dose 1 mg/kg significantly increases compared to dose 0.3 mg/kg of POX (p<0.01).

Figure 4. Effects of various doses of diazinon and paraoxon on activity of serum LDH enzyme after 24. *p < 0.05 and **p < 0.01 vs. control.

The results of the effect of different doses of DZN and POX on GSH concentration of serum in Fig. 5 shows that decrease of GSH concentration at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.3mg/kg POX is significant compared to the control group. In addition, GSH concentration in dose 100 mg/kg significantly decreases compared to dose 30 mg/kg of DZN (p<0.01) and dose 1mg/kg significantly decreases compared to dose 0.3 mg/kg of POX (p < 0.01).

Figure 5: The glutathione concentration in serum after 24-hour at presence of different doses of diazinon and paraoxon. *p<0.05, **p<0.01 and ***p<0.001 vs. control

Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the activity of enzymes SOD and CAT decreases at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.3 mg/kg POX. Serum contains little CAT, SOD, GPx and GSH; its antioxidant properties are dependent on small molecules such as ascorbic acid, bilirubin, uric acid, ferritin and transferring [13]. SOD is the first line of defense against superoxide anion radicals, which converts it into H$_2$O$_2$ and O$_2$. H$_2$O$_2$ is converted into H$_2$O and O$_2$ through CAT enzyme. The decrease in SOD activity probably increases superoxide radicals. This increase had an inhibitory effect on CAT activity and decrease CAT activity, which can lead to tissue damage and oxidative stress [4]. This study results are consistent with results of studies showing that...
organophosphate of phosphamidon and DZN inhibit the activity of SOD [14, 15]. Khan et al with study on the effect of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin (administration for 2 weeks) on liver rats reported that the activity of SOD and CAT were decreased. In the present study, the concentration of serum GSH decreases at doses higher than 30 mg/kg DZN and 0.3 mg/kg POX. The decreased GSH may be due to increased utilization of GSH for conjugation and/or participation of GSH as an antioxidant in neutralizing free radicals [6].

In addition, decreased GSH of serum is also a reflection of hepatic GSH synthesis reduction which decreases GSH of extrahepatic tissues and disturbs GSH homeostasis of the whole-body [4, 5]. The studies of Buyukkokuroglu et al showed that, Fenthion consumption decreased GSH level of human muscle after 24 hour [28].

The studies of Monterio et al also showed that the consumption of methyl parathion (MP) by fish decreased GSH level in tissues of liver, white muscle and gills [18]. The studies of Khan et al showed that consumption of cypermethrin and malathion by rats reduces GSH level in the liver [7].

Butyrylcholinesterase is one of the target enzymes of organophosphates (diazinon and paraoxon) whose toxic effects are created through cholinesterase inhibition, which is necessary for nervous system function. This enzyme exists in serum and liver and is particularly important in terms of pharmacology and toxicology and quickly reveals the acute effects of organophosphates [2, 29].

Measuring the activity of this enzyme has high value in the diagnosis of poisoning with insecticides. In this study, serum BChE activity did not change significantly due to the administration of DZN and POX. This result is probably due to the improvement of serum BChE activity after 24 hours and performance of other body systems such as antioxidant defense system. In addition, the effect of organophosphates on BChE activity is dependent on the consumed dose, contact duration, and type of tissue and animal. The studies of Sun et al showed that BChE enzyme activity makes no changes in the blood sample after prescription of human BChE and then, administration of soman after 14 months [30]. The studies of Sayim et al showed that BChE enzyme activity was decreased after consumption of dimethoate to rats for 90 consecutive days [31].

The studies of Nikookar et al showed that after consumption of malathion for 14 days to rats reduces the activity of BChE in the liver and serum [32]. Comparison of the effect of DZN and POX on the parameters of serum oxidative stress shows that both toxins act similarly. However, the POX dose used, which is much less than DZN, indicates its greater toxicity. P=S bond exists in diazinon structure, which turns into P=O bond in paraoxon structure, This change leads to more severe activity of this organophosphate [33, 34].

In summary, the results suggest that the effects of DZN and POX on serum antioxidant defense system are in a dose-dependent manner. The decreased activity of antioxidant enzymes and depleted GSH
content probably represents the antioxidant defense system failure against the toxic actions of free radicals, which may lead to oxidative stress. POX has much more severe effects.

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References


