

Study Effects of Oral Contraceptive on Some hormones hematological Parameters and Testis of Experimental Male Rat

Shaymaa Z. Al-Rumaidh¹ Sabah Hussain Enayah^{1,3} Bidaa Ali²

(1) Department of biology, College of Science, University of Thi-Qar ,Thi-Qar , Iraq

(2) Department of Pathology Analysis, College of Science, University of Thi-Qar ,Thi-Qar , Iraq.

(3) Toxicology program, Graduate collage, University of Iowa, USA.

Abstract

Oral contraceptive, Birth control, pills are mainly used to prevent the pregnancy. The combination of progesterone and estrogen are commonly use in these days. In this paper, we aimed to determine the influence of progesterone and estrogen as synthetic chemical found in oral contraceptive pills on male rats. we investigated the contribution of oral contraceptive on 2 groups of male rats. 25 and 50mg/kg a had been given through gavage for 60 days. Level of testosterone also were measured utilizing Minvids. Determination of red blood cells, RBCs, total white blood cells and platelets PL where been counted using coulter counter. There was a significant influence of oral contraceptive pills on WBC and PLT while there are not significant effect of RBC comparing to the control. Moreover, in the current study level of Testosterone was not significantly affected due to treatments comparing to the control in both groups. Eosin and Hematoxylin stain used to make histological sections of testiest and the results showed that normal spermatogenesis can be seen clearly in the control group after 60 days' exposure. The spermatogenesis is disrupted based on dose where 50mg of oral contraceptive exposure showed very high level of disturbance. Reductions in the normal designand abnormal distance in seminiferous tubules also noticed after 60 day's treatment with oral contraceptive. In addition to reduce the number of germ cells and somatic cells population after 50mg exposure are counted in high level of contraceptive taken.

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الخلاصة

تهدف الدراسة الحالية الى لمعرفة التغيرات الكيموحيوية لحبوب مانع حمل التي جرعت فمويًا لذكور ١٨ من الجرذان لمدة ٦٠ يومًا. حيث تضمنت الدراسة تركيزين مختلفين لعقار مانع حمل (25, 50 mg/kg). عند انتهاء مدة الدراسة جمعت عينات دم من الجرذان لتشخيص كل من هرمون التسترون RBC, WBC, WBC, PLT، كريات الدم البيضاء والصفائح الدموية. اظهرت نتائج الدراسة الحالية عدم تغير في تركيز هرمون التسترون وانخفاض معنوي في كريات الدم البيض عند مستوى معنوي $P \leq 0.05$. كما اكدت الدراسة عدم تأثير كريات الدم الحمر وارتفاع مستوى الصفائح الدموية عند نفس المستوى المعنوي. اضافة الى ما تم ذكره سابقا فقد تضمنت الدراسة اجراء مقاطع نسيجية لخصى ذكور الجرذان المعاملة بحبوب مانع حمل. اوضحت نتائج المقاطع النسيجية ان العلاج المستخدم كان قادر على اجراء بعض التغيرات النسيجية التي اشتملت تفكك النسيج الخلوي للخصية وتحلل النسيج المحيط للأنابيب المنوية وتلف كبير في خلايا لايدك كما تبين ان مانع الحمل قد خفض العدد الكلي للنطف بشكل ملحوظ. لذا فان العقار قد ترك اثر واضح على الخصوبة لما سببه من تلف نسجي وانخفاض عدد النطف.

Introduction

The world's population continue to increase by 80 million yearly. The expectation the population will reach 10 billion in 2050 [1, 2]. Increase number of population would lead to environmental degradation and human suffering from deficiency in supplies[3]. Abundant number of this population, in fact, is accidentally happened. In 2008, Specifically, 41% of the pregnant women were unprepared to that and this lead to abortion of 20% from the pregnancies worldwide [4, 5]. The elevated frequency of unintended pregnancy is because the women are a terrified from the side effects or there are no excess to contraceptive [2]. 98% of these women would trust their partner to use some sorts of contraception [6]. Several of surveys demonstrated that male contraceptive analogous to the combination of estrogen and progesterone pills would be welcomed by much of men worldwide [7, 8].

Oral hormonal contraceptive pill, in drug regulatory classification, is represented as drug which have been taken by health people rather than by men who suffer from certain disease. Consequently, effective contraceptive carry no health risks or side effect are the major concern about oral contraceptive pills in men [9-11].

Several analyses about hormonal male contraceptive showed that there is an important perspective of men which are taken more seriously by enormous number of experts and policymakers[12]. Most of them concern about men's emotional wellbeing and sexuality. Men's happiness has been emphasized and put on the international research agenda by scientists and pharmaceutical industry[12, 13].

Nevertheless, over last three decades, reports on clinical trials suggest an increasing number of side effects that are associated with male hormonal contraceptive. The evaluation of health risks of male taken hormonal contraceptive exemplified by the effects of hormones on lipids which become as major indicator in this case[14].

Women effected by contraceptive has been the central focus of birth control delegation. Based on our knowledge there are no many studies considered the impact of oral contraceptive pills, which has been commonly taken by female, on male health. Thus, in the present study, the authors tried to investigate the role of oral contraceptive pills on some blood figures and male hormone. Histological section for testis and sperm counts also elucidated in this study. The big picture of the current study is to find out the real influence of hormonal contraceptive on male and if the percentages of progesterone and estrogen combination in the third generation of this medicine which derived from the synthetic testosterone.

Materials and methods

Wister albino rat species at age (10-12) weeks and weight (150 to 250 g) had been used to this experiment. All the animals gained and kept at the animal's house facilities of biology department in College of Science at Thi-Qar university. Plastic cages and standard condition had proposed in this experiment. Animals in all groups were given free access to food and water. After animals had been divided to three groups each group contain 6 male rats, the animals left about 10 days for adaptation.

Contraceptive pills that commercially available were crushed and dissolved in tap water. The dosage used calculated based on women usage level. The oral gavage technique was the main method to deliver the normal saline or the mixture of oral contraceptive in the current experiment.

The groups included; control group where normal saline had been given on daily base for 60 days. Second group were daily administrated to 25mg per body weight of oral contraceptive. Third group were demonstrated to 50mg per body weight of oral contraceptive.

At the end of the experiment, animals were sacrificed after anesthetized with chloroform as described in [15, 16]. blood samples were collected through cardiac puncture. Blood divided into 2 kinds of tubes; tube with EDTA for hematology analysis and tube without EDTA for serum collection and hormone measurements.

EDTA tubes used for red blood cell (RBC), white blood cells (WBC) and platelet (PL) using coulter counter in Thi-Qar hospital. Hormone analysis conducted using Minivids also with assistance from Thi-Qar university. The testis was dissected and fat tissue was removed.

The testis was harvested and fix in 10% paraffin. Slides of each rat's testis were prepared and H& E stains utilized as described in [17]. In blinded manner, 4 slides from each treatment and 10 round of seminiferous tubules (ST) of each were selected randomly to count number of germ cells (spermatogenesis evaluation). Spermatogonia type A and B for testicular cells quantified using light microscope Olympus with lenses 40X. Johnson Scoring system was been used for rating germ cells maturation in each ST using score of 1-10 [18, 19]. The counting repeated twice with two different specialists.

Statistical analysis

The data which has been shown in this study calculated in SAS 9.3 or GraphPad prism 6. The statistics different between control and treated groups were analyzed using tow way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni. A p-value of <0.05

Results

Level of Testosterone (T) was low in treatment groups but is not reduced enough to be significant comparing to the control. The average of testosterone in animals treated with 50mg/kg (0.3 ± 0.04) and group treated with 25mg/kg was (0.25 ± 0.15) decreased slightly comparing to control (4.7 ± 0.4) as showed in figure (1).

Regarding to the hematology parameters which included in this study, the results showed that level of white blood cells (WBC) significantly reduced in the end of the experiment in 25 mg treated group (9.83 ± 1.22) and 50mg treated group (6.07 ± 1.36) comparing to the control Figure (2). Figure (3) illustrated red blood cell count RBC. RBC level dose not changed after 60 day orally exposed animals to hormonal combination of contraceptive with 25mg (5.63 ± 0.59) and the case was same with higher concentration (5.13 ± 0.59).

Testis histological observation showed that seminiferous tubules (ST) in control group were compactly arranged. Their shapes were mostly oval or semi-around with intact basement membrane. The average of germ cells was normal in control sections. Masses of spermatozoa can be seen in control sections Figure (5A). stages of spermatogenesis can be seen in most of seminiferous tubules. Section of testes from rats treated with 25mg of oral contraceptive for 60 days showed marked deteriorating changes, while the seminiferous tubules appeared as same size. The basement membrane intact whereas the germ cells were extremely condensed. Number of somatic cells are less and necrotic cells showed as fragments in figure (5B). Noticeable degenerative alternation showed in section of testis from animals exposed to 50mg of oral contraceptives such as decrease in the normal architecture and abnormal distance in seminiferous tubules. More reduction in the germ cells and somatic cells population was observed. At this dose, atrophy of seminiferous shape and basement membrane with alteration in lumen also appeared. Mean of spermatogonia type A and B counts of treated groups and control male were as following; control 9.4 ± 0.02 , 25mg oral contraceptive treatment 8.83 ± 0.14 and 25gm treatment 6.83 ± 0.11 .

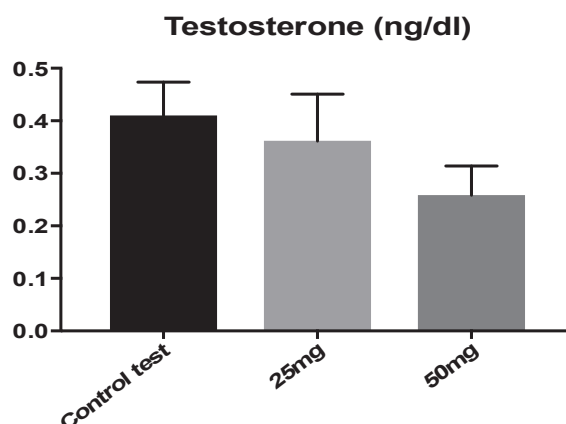


Figure 2: level of Testosterone hormone in male rate after 60 days' treatment with oral contraceptive. no significant change showed at the end of the experiment $P \leq 0.05$.

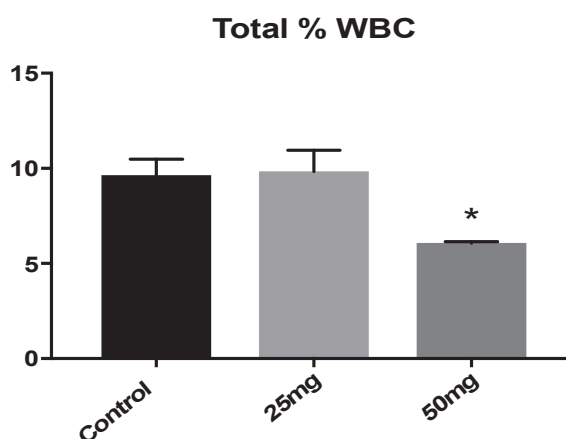


Figure 3: WBC after 60 days' treatment with low concentrations of hormonal oral contraceptive to male rate. At high concentration WBC went significantly down comparing to the control $P \leq 0.05$.

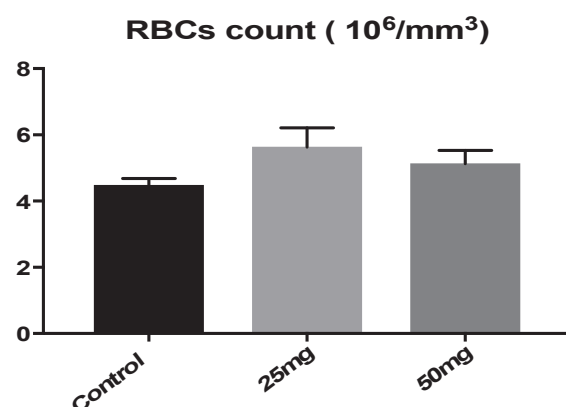


Figure 4: level of RBC at the end of the experiment showing there are no significant different in both treatment groups comparing with control $P \leq 0.05$.

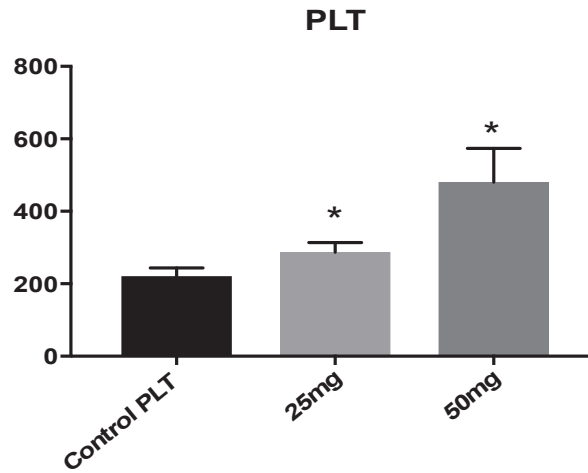


Figure 5: Platelet level in male rate treated with oral contraceptive showed significant different with both treatment groups. $P \leq 0.05$

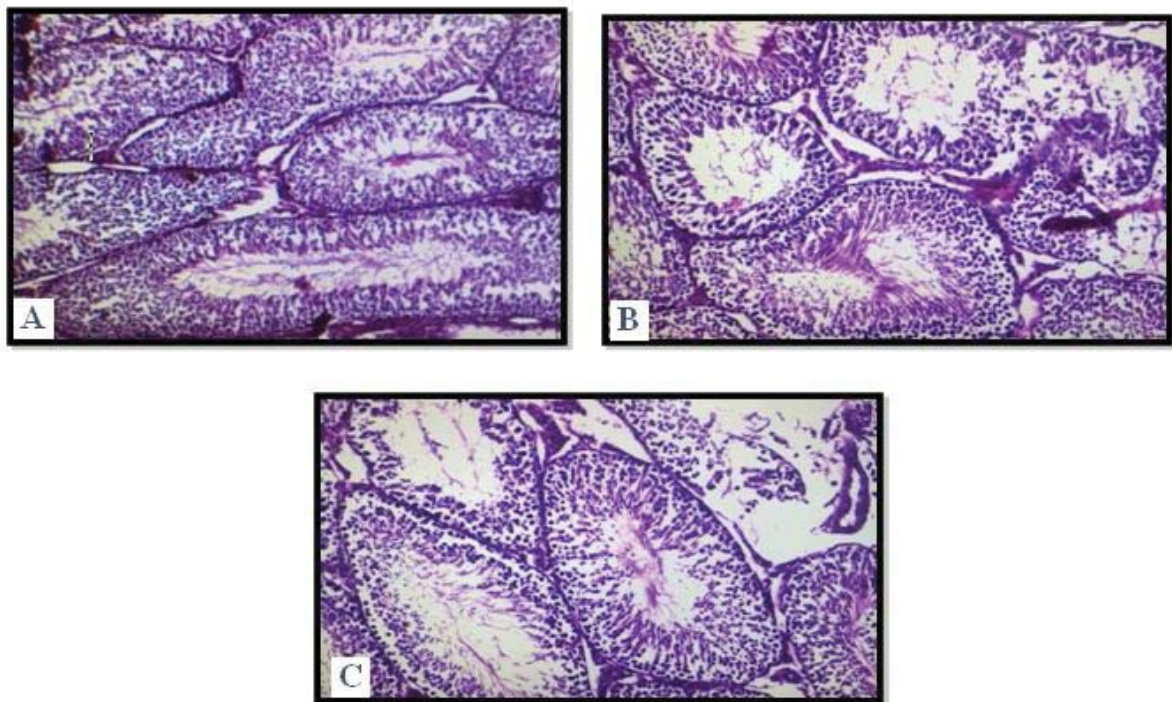


Figure 6: Histological sections of rat testes stained with H&E. Control group and normal spermatogenesis can be seen (wide row) (A). After 60 days' exposure to 25mg of oral contraceptive stages of spermatogenesis (B). Reductions in the normal design (wide row) and abnormal distance in seminiferous tubules (head row). In addition to reduce the number of germ cells and somatic cells population after 50mg exposure(thin row) (C).

Discussion

Contraceptive pills mostly are combination of estrogen and progesterone[11]. The main mechanism of action is the inhibition of follicular development and prevent ovulation. Negative feedback of progestogen in hypothalamus would decrease the pulses frequency releasing of gonadotropin hormone. The reduction of gonadotropin will reduce the secretion of follicle stimulating hormone(FSH) and would also drop luteinizing hormone (LH). Inhibit follicle development will reduce the estradiol levels[20, 21].

In contrast, the main mechanism of action to combined oral contraceptive pills is progesterone's ability to impede sperm from penetrating through the cervix and upper genital tract[22, 23]. In addition, the reduction in level of LH and FSH from the pituitary, in turn, will not stimulate Leydig cell to produce testosterone(T) and Sertoli cell to endorse spermatogenesis[24].

Based on information from above we should see decrease in T level but this came out differently with what has been proven in the current study. The reduction in level of T hormone was not enough to be significant because the duration of experiment probably was not long enough to show such a difference. The result of our study agreed with pilot study where sixteen volunteers were taken oral progestin. This study demonstrated that sperm count will be at very low values after three months of treatment. Level of LH and FSH among these men were inhibited while plasma testosterone average was remained within equal range[25, 26].

Over decades, most of the scientists and physicians are using WBC as one of the frequently ordered tests in the clinical medicine. There are no many of noninfectious factors that could alter WBC value. Hormonal oral contraceptive has been known to change blood parameters. A study on 14,961 healthy women who were taking daily oral contraceptive were evaluated to determine the role of contraceptive in changing WBC. The results of this study showed that the level of WBC statically increased among the women who were continuing taking the pills over three months [27]. Another study about of 38 students showed that the students, who are exposed to difficult academic examination and taken oral contraceptive, demonstrated a significant positive relationship increase in WBC comparing to student who were just introduced to tough examination [28]. Moreover, a study aimed to investigate the factors which increase inflammation and consequently increase WBC among adolescents and young women and explore if these factors would be affected by oral contraceptive. The result confirmed that WBC would be increased with women taken oral contraceptive comparing with who are not [29]. The present finding is agreed with all the previous results showed above. The level of WBC's illustrates statically increase with both concentrations.

Diminish absorption of dietary folate and polyglutamic are well known as side effects of oral contraceptive uses. A study included 3736 women were RBC parameter analyzed. Oral contraceptive users displayed evaluation in the level of RBC [30]. Another epidemiological study showed that there is no effect of oral contraceptive on hemoglobin, hematocrit and erythrocyte count[31-33]. The outcome to the present study aligns well with those of former studies where no significant change had been shown in the RBC. Due to the Confounding of the effects of dose and the type of hormone and the formulation of the drug, it was not easy to estimate the effect of oral contraceptive on RBC.

Even though, the combination of estrogen and progesterone would be considered as advance formal of the oral contraceptive, the use of it still strongly associated with vascular disease [34, 35]. Increased coagulation activity is mostly dependent on estrogen dose. Several works suggested that the upsurge of clotting activity derived from oral contraceptive uses is mainly resulted from platelets increase[36]. It also has reported that oral contraceptive would increase collagen and Thromboxane A₂TXA₂ which consider the main reason for platelet aggregation increase. Studies dealing with women and experimental animals reported that using oral contraceptive caused platelet hyperactivity[37]. Our finding of oral contraceptive enhances of rise platelet count in both doses comparing with control that would agree with finding of epidemiological studies cited previously.

Alteration in testis histology with the dose of treatment that been represented by decrease germ cells and atrophy of seminiferous tubules is due to the elevation of the FSH or and estrogen level[38, 39]. Taking oral contraceptive would increase level of exogenous FSH and estrogen and the dominance of these hormones in male rats impede spermatogenesis due to alteration in balance of male hormone and inhibit receptors for male hormones. Due to powered androgen the male system would be crashed and elevated of germ cell necrosis[40].

According to reviewed previous studies, there are no studies elucidate wither the female hormonal contraceptive would affect on the blood parameters as well as hormones and histology of testis. The current study clearly showed evidence that female oral contraceptive which might been taken by male would have serious adverse effect on blood parameters. In the same time these pills could impact on testicular structure in both morphology and sperm production that in turn may lead to poor fertility specially at high level.

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