Comparative Experimental Evaluation of L-carnitine and Cholecalciferol on Amikacin Induced Nephrotoxicity and Clinical Evaluation of Amikacin Induced Adverse Drug Reactions

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Reduction of health cost burden with existing low-cost drug and thereby improving patient compliance is utmost necessary. Keeping in mind the above, we started with low cost, broad spectrum, WHO enlisted essential drug amikacin. We tried to revaluate it with another two low-cost drugs, L-carnitine, and Cholecalciferol. Measurement of amikacin induced nephrotoxicity by means of abnormal renal biochemical parameters on albino rats and comparison of improvement after administration of L-carnitine & Cholecalciferol along with renal histopathology examination (HPE) of amikacin treated rats and causality assessment of amikacin induced adverse drug reactions (ADR) in hospitalized patient. Healthy albino male rats (N=40) were taken from Institutional animal house of Burdwan medical College and Hospital (BMCH) and were randomly divided into 4 groups. CPCSEA acclimatization guideline followed. IEAC and CREC clearances taken. Renal biochemical parameters from blood samples were analysed. Sterile water for injection was given to all group. Group I is control (only vehicle), Amikacin added to Group II, III and IV. L carnitine & Cholecalciferol was added to Group III & Group IV respectively. Post test measurement of renal biochemical parameters and HPE were done. Clinical observation of amikacin treated hospitalised patients and collection of their ADR in BMCH were done to find out correlations with animal experiment. Statistical analyses were done using Graph Pad Prism version.4 software. Minimisation of amikacin induced nephropathy were seen, more in Group IV than Group III. HPE found the same conclusion. WHO UMC causality assessment revealed, 94.35% ADR were "probable/likely" whereas 5.65% were "possible". The Naranjo's adverse reaction probability scale revealed almost the same. Interventional animal experiment, biochemical parameters, histopathology along with open label, non-interventional, prospective observational study clearly indicates cholecalciferol is significantly better than L carnitine to minimise the effects of amikacin induced nephropathy.

Keywords: Amikacin; Amikacin induced nephropathy; Cholecalciferol; L-Carnitine.

The kidney functions as the major excretory system, which makes it particularly vulnerable to nephrotoxic injury¹. Nephrotoxicity is a deleterious effect on the kidney due to some toxic chemicals, medication, or both and therefore some medications with predominantly renal excretion need their dose to be adjusted during compromised renal function.

There are so many useful drugs which have nephrotoxic potential like aminoglycosides, cisplatin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, lithium, rifampicin etc. and they exert

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their toxic effects by altered intra glomerular hemodynamic, tubular cell toxicity, oxidative injury, inflammation, crystal nephropathy and thrombotic microangiopathy.^{2,3} Renal proximal tubule epithelial cells (RPTECs) comprise the bulk of the renal parenchyma and are the primary targets of a large variety of ischemic and toxic insults.⁴

Drug-induced toxicity has accounted for 20% of all primary aetiologies in renal injury. Pharmacological agent induced nephrotoxicity is further shown to be one of the chief aetiologies in intrinsic renal failure aside from the second most common cause, infection.^[2] In the era of modern medicine, patients are exposed to an expanding variety of drugs for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Unfortunately, some of these agents cause adverse drug effects linked with systemic toxicity, including impairment of renal function.5 Reduction of drug induced chronic kidney disease (CKD) requires attention to the unique pharmacologic considerations along with continuous assessment of the costs and benefits of any therapeutic intervention or diagnostic test. Maintaining patient safety within reasonable cost is likely to be as important as any currently available therapy for the disease, with just as great as benefit.⁶

Aminoglycoside antibiotics (AGs) are a critical component of the current antibacterial arsenal and widely used in meningitis, cystic fibrosis, multi drug resistant tuberculosis and bacterial sepsis in infants etc.⁷ AGs still constitute the most effective therapeutic alternative against bacteria insensitive to other antibiotics because of their broad spectrum activity, fast bactericidal effect, favourable chemical and pharmacokinetic properties, synergy with beta lactam antibiotics, little resistance, and low cost.⁸ Thus, despite undesirable nephrotoxic and ototoxic adverse effects, AGs like amikacin continues being frequently used as first as well as second choice drug in a vast variety of clinical situations.

Among different antioxidant supplements, L carnitine a quaternary ammonium compound, associated with various biological processes, including (1) improved insulin sensitivity (2) the acetylation of histones and (3) anti-inflammatory and (4) antioxidant processes and widely known for its involvement in the transport of long chain fatty acids into the mitochondria for energy production in peripheral tissues.^{9,10} It is taken into cell by organic cation transporters. In humans and rats, these organic cation transporters are localized in the brain, heart, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, pancreas, placenta, thyroid, and trachea.¹¹ It has been suggested that L carnitine prevents impairment of fatty acid beta oxidation in mitochondria and plays a part in removing potentially toxic metabolites associated with the â-oxidation of fatty and this mechanism is essential in sequestering and subsequent removal of abnormal organic acids in several organic academia and to protect tissues from damage.¹² Inflammation and reactive oxygen substances play an important role in acute kidney injury pathophysiology.

Vitamin D is a pleiotropic hormone with several endocrine, paracrine, and autocrine effects on multiple tissues and organs, beyond skeletal homeostasis maintenance¹³. Several studies have shown positive therapeutic efficacy of vitamin D and their analogues to reduce inflammation and proteinuria^{14,15}. A large, randomized placebo controlled clinical trial (the VITAL Study, 50[Ü = 281) confirmed that vitamin D analogue was able to reduce albuminuria and blood pressure in patients with diabetic nephropathy¹⁶. Together, these clinical data provide a strong case to argue in favour of vitamin D analogues as a complementary therapy for treatment of proteinuria in drug induced nephropathy. Vitamin D and VDR (vitamin D receptor activation) preserves mitochondrial morphology and integrity in the renal tissue, and they play an essential role in podocyte preservation,17 although tubular effect of vitamin D is still debateable.

There are so many studies which showed L carnitine has nephroprotective role in aminoglycoside induced nephrotoxicity. Recently Vitamin D analogues are emerging as a nephroprotective pleotropic hormone, though there is paucity in data regarding their role in drug induced nephropathy.

In 2015, with the latest estimates, 176 million Indians were living in extreme poverty.¹⁸ Therefore, it automatically follows the several public health-related challenges like tuberculosis, malnutrition, various chronic diseases etc.^{19,20} Majority of the Indian population can't afford growing health expenditure, so review or analysis

of previously used low-cost medicines as well as new medicines both are necessary to reduce health burden.

With this backdrop a study was planned to evaluate nephroprotective role of cost-effective antioxidant L carnitine and a pleotropic hormone Cholecalciferol on amikacin treated experimental rat model through evaluation of some renal biochemical parameters and antioxidative biomarkers. Renal histopathology was also done to make the conclusion more specific. Our aim was to find the better alternative in between L carnitine and Cholecalciferol to minimise the nephrotoxic effects of amikacin. In our present study one of our objectives was to observe and assess adverse drug reaction (ADR) of amikacin through collection of biochemical renal parameters from amikacin treated hospitalised patients and collection of the same from amikacin treated experimental rat model.

We preferentially chosen amikacin in our study as it is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, a list of the most important medication needed in a basic health system.²¹

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Paper materials

Informed Consent Form (ICF) in vernacular languages were used along with predesigned and pretested Case Record Form (CRF) including adverse drug reactions (ADR) check list.

Drugs and chemicals

Amikacin, L Carnitine, Cholecalciferol, and Pentothal for induction of anaesthesia were used in animal experiment. Amikacin^[TABLE1] vials were gathered from hospital supplied samples. L carnitine ^[TABLE 1] & Cholecalciferol ^[TABLE 1] were taken from nearby medicine shop after proper checking of batch no and expiry date etc. All chemicals and reagents used for biochemical blood parameter analysis were available in the Department of Biochemistry. Pentothal was collected from the departmental laboratory and was used for rat scarification.

Equipment

Rat cage as per the guidelines of Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision

of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). ^[22] Disposable 2cc, 5cc, Tuberculin 1ml and 0.005ml glass syringes for intraperitoneal injection and for blood collection. Blood collecting container for urea and creatinine and labeller. Centrifuge machine (Electra-BL, India) to separate serum from the collected blood. Randox Autoanalyzer (rx Daytona+, Ireland) to measure urea and creatinine value. Dissecting tray with proper sterile animal dissecting instruments. Formalin containing airtight container to dispatch animal viscera for histopathology examination. Spectronic 21 Spectrophotometer (Milton Roy Company, United States) for Malondialdehyde (MDA) analysis and Microscope (Olympus CX21i, Japan)).

METHODOLOGY

The Study was carried out in the Department of Pharmacology in collaboration with The Department of Biochemistry, Pathology, and various clinical departments of BMCH. Approval from The Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) and Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC) were obtained prior to initiation of study. **Animal study**

Adult healthy male albino rats (N=40) with weight of 100 – 150 grams and those previously not investigated for the same purpose were taken from the institutional animal house, BMCH and kept in The Department of Pharmacology laboratory for acclimatization for a week under environmentally controlled conditions with free access to food and water (ad libitum). They were kept in standard metallic clean rat cages after maintaining the temperature within a range of (25-28 °C) and in 12 hour light /12 hour dark cycle. Experiments were carried out as per CPCSEA guidelines.

Animals were randomly divided into four groups of 10 rats each as follows.

Group-I $(n_1=10)$ [Control]: Sterile water for injection used as a vehicle and was given in same volume to each rat through intra peritoneal route (i.p). Amikacin was given for the same duration of 5 days. Sterile water was used from the same sealed pack of amikacin injection with same batch number.

Group-II ($n_2=10$) [Amikacin + Vehicle]: Amikacin was given intra peritoneally (i.p) at a single dose of 1.2gm / kg body weight (b.w)/day for 5 days. ^[23] Volume of the injection was determined as per the body weight of the individual rat.

Group-III ($n_3=10$) [Amikacin + L carnitine + Vehicle]: L Carnitine was given intra peritoneally along with amikacin and vehicle at a single dose of 200mg/kg b.w/day for 5 days.^[24] Volume of the injection was determined as per the body weight of the individual rat.

Group-IV ($n_4=10$) [Amikacin + Cholecalciferol + Vehicle]: Cholecalciferol was given intraperitoneally along with Amikacin and vehicle at a single dose of 250 IU/100gm b.w/day for 5 days. ^[25] Volume of the injection was determined as per the body weight of the individual rat.

Collection of blood

Blood was collected twice: one at baseline (before giving injection) from retro orbital plexus to measure biochemical profile, and second after completion of injection (sixth day after starting therapy) as per the group requirements. This time blood was collected from the heart of the animal, after sacrificing them as per the study need. The blood samples were collected into non heparinized micro well vials and were allowed to coagulate at room temperature. Thereafter, centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 minutes to extract the sera and stored at -20°C. Serum urea and creatinine were measured in autoanalyzer. MDA were analysed from the above clotted blood using spectrophotometer (spectronic-21).

Renal tissues were taken out after scarification and formalin preserved. All the tissues were sent to the Department of Pathology for histopathology examination (HPE) after proper labelling.

Serum urea

Serum urea was measured by using enzymatic assay (Berthelot method). ^[26] Urease catalyses the conversion of urea into ammonia and CO_2 . Released ammonia reacts with salicylate in presence of nitroprusside and hypochlorite, giving a blue green coloured complex.

Urease Urea + 2H₂O $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow 2$ NH₃ + CO₂

Nitroprusside

NH3 + Salicylate + Hypochlorite $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ Blue Green Colour Complex

Absorbance of the coloured solution is directly proportional to the urea concentration,

when measured at 578 nm.²⁷ Serum creatinine

Serum creatinine was measured by modified Jaffe's method. Most routine serum creatinine assays in current use have evolved from the reaction first described by Jaffe in 1886.²⁸ Creatinine reacts with picric acid at alkaline pH to form a yellow orange complex.²⁹

Creatinine + Alkaline Picrate $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ Yellow Orange Complex

Kinetic Jaffe's method involves mixing serum with alkaline picrate and reading the rate of change in absorption spectrophotometer at 520 nm. This not only standardized the procedure, but also removed the need for sample deproteinization.³⁰ **Serum Malondialdehyde (MDA)**

Thiobarbituric acid test (TBA)³¹ was done. Polyunsaturated fatty acids react with molecular oxygen to undergo free radical mediated auto oxidation. Numerous non-volatile peroxides and aldehyde compounds are formed during this process and decomposed to form MDA and remaining other substances react with TBA to form a pink colour compound. Then the product is readily extractable into butanol and read absorbance at 532mm.

Estimation of MDA in samples was done as follows

The tube containing 0.5 ml of freshly prepared serum and 2.5ml of TCA was allowed to stand for 10minutes at room temperature. The tube was stirred thoroughly after admixing 2.5ml of sulphuric acid, thereafter 3.5 ml of TBA reagent was added to this. The coupling of lipid peroxide with TBA was carried out by heating in boiling water bath for 30 minutes and then cooled in water. N butanol amounting 4.0ml was added and chromogen was extracted to organic phase by vigorous shaking.

Separation of the organic phase by centrifugation at 3000rpm for 10minutes was done and the supernatant organic phase was pipetted to a clean test tube. Its absorbance was determined at 532nm wavelength by spectrophotometer (spectronic 21). N butanol was used as blank to assure zero reading. The optical density was noted, and level of MDA was calculated from standard curve. MDA values were expressed in nmole/ml in case of serum. 1609

Preparation of histopathological slide

After completion of the treatment period according to experimental design, the animals were anesthetized using Pentothal sodium and sacrificed for tissue collection.³² Kidneys were dissected out and collected carefully. Organs were fixed in 10% neutral buffer formalin for 24 hour and grossing was done after careful removal of adherent fat tissues.33 Followed by fixation, dehydration of the tissues was conducted by immersing the tissue in a series of gradually increasing concentrations of alcohol (50%, 70%, 80%, 95% and absolute alcohol) and embedded into paraffin wax for making blocks. Sectioning of the tissue (thickness around 5 microns) was performed by using a microtome (Leica, Germany).³⁴ Small ribbon of different tissue sections were placed on microscopic slide with help of warm distilled water containing few drops of Mayer's albumin and deparaffinised with xylene solution. Staining had been done by Harris haematoxylin & eosin yellow solution using standard procedure for preparing permanent slide.35 Histopathological changes were observed and interpreted under 20x of a light microscope and significant sections were photographed. Special stain like PAS stain for histopathology was not done due to nonavailability of reagent during the study period. **Statistical analysis**

Microsoft Excel 2010 and Graph Pad Prism version.4 were used for statistical analysis. One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by paired-t test was carried out to compare continuous parametric values within groups.

Clinical observation

It was designed as an open label, noninterventional, prospective, observational study. Patients admitted in various in-patient department of a tertiary care teaching hospital (BMCH), were recruited as per inclusion and exclusion criteria and after collection of written informed consent. Illiterate patients gave their fingerprint (left thumb impression) in presence of appropriate witness. All indoor patient of both gender and of all ages and otherwise healthy, who would receive amikacin chemotherapy, were under inclusion criteria. No changes were made in the treatment decision, schedule, or duration during the study period.

Patient who was unable or not willing to give consent. Patients who were receiving chemotherapy regimens other than amikacin. Patients who were pregnant or were willing to

Brand Name	Volume	Presentation	Manufactured by	Batch No.	Expiry Date
Amikacin Sulphat	te*				
Endocin-500	2ml	Endocin-500 INJ.	Adley Formulations (Hospital supply)	AVS-3082	12/2015
L-Carnitine					
Carnisure-1g	5ml	Carnisure -1gm/5ml INJ	Elder Pharmaceuticals	B69773	01/2016
Cholecalciferol		C			
Vitanova D ₃ 3L	1ml	Vitanova D ₃ 3LInjection IP	Zuventus Healthcare Ltd.	DLA15001	03/2016

Table 1. Test Drugs Details

* All amikacin sulphate injection (10 vial) were of same batch number and expiry date.

Table 2. Assessment parameters for clinical observation

Parameters	Laboratory parameters	Base line visit	After completion of therapy
Medical history Clinical examination Adverse effects	Urea Creatinine Concomitant medications	$\sqrt[n]{\sqrt{1}}$	$\sqrt{1}$

go for pregnancy. Patients who were with renal impairment and with very poor general condition. Patients who were with any other major systemic ailment according to physician's discretion. Those who were participated in any other clinical trial within past 3 months. Those who were receiving medication which might interact with the study medication. All of these were under the exclusion criteria.

Amikacin injection doses used in hospital were 500mg twice daily I.V with adequate hydration. All hospitalized patients of our study received full course of 5 days amikacin chemotherapy as per the directions given in bed head ticket (BHT) by the treating physician. Baseline laboratory values such as serum urea and creatinine were collected from the BHT, before and after the completion of amikacin therapy. Increased serum urea, increased serum creatinine, oliguria and swelling of face were taken as indicator of nephropathy whereas fullness in ear, tinnitus and loss of hearing were taken as indicator of ototoxicity. Collection of the above data was done in specified case report format (CRF), as a part of ADR information associated with our study. **Concomitant medication**

Comorbid patients with other medications were allowed to be take their medication, provide that they did not have any significant interaction with the study drugs.

Parameters	$GrI(n_1=10)$	GrII ($n_2=10$)	GrIII $(n_3=10)$	GrIV $(n_4=10)$	P value
UREA					
Range	21-33	23-33	21-33	23-33	
Median	27	26.50	26.50	29.00	
Mean±SEM	27.3±1.274	27±1.116	26.3±1.212	28.6±1.097	0.5766 (NS)
CREATININE					
Range	0.4-0.6	0.4-0.6	0.4-0.6	0.4-0.6	
Median	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
Mean±SEM	0.5±0.02582	0.48 ± 0.02494	0.48 ± 0.02494	0.49 ± 0.02769	0.9373 (NS)
MDA					
Range	1.760-2.470	1.430-2.320	1.250-2.110	1.230-2.310	
Median	1.945	1.905	1.660	1.840	
Mean±SEM	2.037 ± 0.08146	1.928 ± 0.09344	1.686 ± 0.07671	1.809 ± 0.1276	0.0800 (NS)

Table 3. Mean Baseline Score

n=Sample size, SEM=Standard error of mean, NS= Not significant.

Group	Sample size	Mean	SD	SEM	Median
GrI (MDA)B	10	2.037	0.2576	0.08146	1.945
GrII (MDA)B	10	1.928	0.2955	0.09344	1.905
GrIII (MDA)B	10	1.686	0.2426	0.07671	1.660
GrIV (MDA)B	10	1.809	0.4034	0.1276	1.840
Group	Minimum	Maxir	num	95% Confidence	Interval
				From	То
GrI (MDA)H	3 1.760	2.47	70	1.853	2.221
GrII (MDA)	B 1.430	2.32	20	1.717	2.139
GrIII (MDA)B 1.250	2.1	10	1.512	1.860
GrIV (MDA)B 1.230	2.3	10	1.520	2.098

MDA=Malondialdehyde, SD=Standard deviation, SEM=Standard error of mean.

Causality assessment

Causality assessment of ADR were done through WHO UMC causality assessment scale and Naranjo's algorithm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Animal experiment

A total 40 adult healthy male albino rats with weight of 100 grams to 150 grams and those previously not investigated for the same purpose were randomly divided into 4 groups, 10 rats each. Blood samples were collected group wise from each rat before initiation of the treatment and taken as baseline values (B). Blood samples were again collected after completion of the treatment and recorded as Post-test value (E). Urea, Creatinine (Cr) and Malondialdehyde (MDA) were measured using specific standard procedure mentioned before and analysed ^[Table 3] thereafter.

P values calculated from ANOVA test. Post test P values were not calculated because the P value was greater than 0.05. ANOVA assumes that the data are sampled from populations with identical SDs. This assumption is tested using Bartlett method.

Bartlett statistic (corrected) = 2.871. The P value is 0.4120. Bartlett's test suggests that the difference among the SDs is not significant.

ANOVA assumes that the data are sampled from populations that follow Gaussian distributions. This assumption is tested using Kolmogorov and Smirnov (KS) method.

Histopathological analysis

After scarification of each group of rat and preparation of renal HPE slides through different

Parameters	Gr I-(B)	Gr I-(E)	P value
UREA			
Range	21-33	23-32	
Median	27	26.50	
Mean±SEM	27.3±1.274	27.1±1.016	0.6618 (NS)
Creatinine			
Range	0.4-0.6	0.4-0.7	
Median	0.5	0.5	
Mean±SEM	0.5 ± 0.02582	0.53±0.03000	0.1934 (NS)
MDA			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Range	1.760-2.470	1.750-2.480	
Median	1.945	1.955	
Mean±SEM	2.037±0.08146	2.046±0.08358	0.1467 (NS)

Table 5. Group I (Control) [SUMMARY] [Student paired t test]

Table 6. Group II (Amikacin+ Vehicle) [SUMMARY] [Student paired t test]

Parameter	Gr II-(B)	Gr II-(E)	P value
UREA			
Range	23-33	53-65	
Median	26.50	59	
Mean±SEM	27±1.116	59.4±1.194	*** P < 0.0001
Creatinine			
Range	0.4-0.6	1.020-1.100	
Median	0.5	1.085	
Mean±SEM	0.48 ± 0.02494	1.074±0.009214	*** P < 0.0001
MDA			
Range	1.430-2.320	6.970-8.630	
Median	1.905	7.775	
Mean±SEM	1.928±0.09344	7.741±0.1914	*** P < 0.0001

1611

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Parameter	GrIII-(B)	GrIII-(E)	P value
UREA			
Range	21-33	41-51	
Median	26.50	47.50	
Mean±SEM	26.3±1.212	47.4±1.013	*** P < 0.0001
Creatinine			
Range	0.4-0.6	0.7-1.0	
Median	0.5	0.85	
Mean±SEM	0.48 ± 0.02494	0.85±0.02687	*** P < 0.0001
MDA			
Range	1.250-2.110	2.720-3.790	
Median	1.660	3.120	
Mean±SEM	1.686 ± 0.07671	3.178±0.1176	*** P < 0.0001

 Table 7. GROUP III (Amikacin + L Carnitine + Vehicle) [summary] [Student paired t test]

 Table 8. Group IV_(Amikacin + Cholecalciferol + Vehicle)[summary][Student paired t test]

Parameter	GrIV (B)	GrIV (E)	P value
Urea			
Range	23-33	32-39	
Median	29	36	
Mean±SEM	28.6±1.097	35.4±0.7024	***P=0.0002
Creatinine			
Range	0.4-0.6	0.5-0.9	
Median	0.5	0.7	
Mean±SEM	0.49±0.02769	0.7±0.03651	***P<0.0001
MDA			
Range	1.230-2.310	2.980-4.640	
Median	1.840	3.830	
Mean±SEM	1.809±0.1276	3.78±0.1800	***P<0.0001

Table 9. Comparison between Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV [Post test values]

Parameters	GrI (n ₁ =10)	GrII (n ₂ =10)	GrIII ($n_3=10$)	$GrIV(n_4=10)$	P value
Urea					
Range	23-32	53-65	41-51	32-39	
Median	26.5	59	47.5	36	
Mean±SEM	27.1±1.016	59.4±1.194	47.4±1.013	35.4±0.7024	*** P < 0.0001
Creatinine					
Range	0.4-0.7	1.02-1.10	0.7-1.0	0.5-0.9	
Median	0.5	1.085	0.85	0.7	
Mean±SEM	0.53±0.030	1.074±0.0092	0.85±0.027	0.7±0.036	*** P < 0.0001
MDA					
Range	1.75-2.48	6.97-8.63	2.72-3.79	2.98-4.64	
Median	1.95	7.77	3.12	3.83	
Mean±SEM	2.046±0.083	7.741±0.191	3.178±0.117	3.78±0.180	*** P < 0.0001

*** considered extremely significant.

stages told above, following significant changes are observed. All samples were examined by the same pathologist who was unaware of which samples originated from which group. Tubular degeneration, tubular necrosis and tubular interstitial inflammation were evaluated semi-quantitatively and graded as mild, moderate, severe, and very severe based on histopathological features of representative field area. Tubular degeneration, tubular necrosis and tubular interstitial inflammation were defined as following.

Tubular degeneration (TD) was defined as vacuolization and increasing acidophilic cytoplasm of the proximal tubule epithelial cells. Tubular necrosis (TN) was defined as loss of nucleus in the epithelial cells, dark acidophilic cytoplasm, and loss of tubular epithelial cells into tubular lumen, maintaining the outline of the tubules. Infiltration of inflammatory cells in perivascular and interstitial areas were considered as Tubulointerstitial inflammation (TII) and it is also a predictor of progression to renal failure.³⁶ Additionally, proteinaceous casts and medullary vascular congestion (MVC) were also included.³⁷ Presence of vascular congestion and erythrocytes were considered as medullary vascular congestion.³⁸ Histopathology slides were examined using Olympus CX 21i microscope and photographs were captured by Leica DFC 450 digital camera.

Clinical observation

Causality Assessment of Amikacin induced ADRs

Most frequent ADRs were increased urea, increased creatinine, oliguria, swelling of face, tinnitus and feeling of fullness in ear. No

UREA [Post test values]

1613

Tukey Kramer Multiple Comparisons Test: If the value of q is greater than 3.813 then the P value is less than 0.05.

Comparison		Mean Difference	q	P value
GrI (Urea)-E vs GrII (U	Jrea)-E	-32.300	32.386	*** P< 0.001
GrI (Urea)-E vs GrIII (Urea)-E	-20.300	20.354	*** P< 0.001
GrI (Urea)-E vs Gr IV		-8.300	8.322	*** P< 0.001
GrII (Urea)-E vs GrIII	(Urea)-E	12.000	12.032	*** P< 0.001
GrII (Urea)-E vs Gr IV	(Urea)-E	24.000	24.064	*** P< 0.001
	GrIII (Urea)-E vs Gr IV (Urea)-E		12.032	*** P< 0.001
Difference		Mean Difference	95% conf	idence interval
			From	То
GrI (Urea)E – GrII (Ur	rea)E	-32.300	-36.103	-28.497
GrI (Urea)E– GrIII (U	rea)E	-20.300	-24.103	-16.497
GrI (Urea)E " GrIV (U	Irea)E	-8.300	-12.103	-4.497
GrII (Urea)E " GrIII (U	Urea)E	12.000	8.197	15.803
GrII (Urea)E " GrIV (Urea)E	24.000	20.197	27.803
GrIII (Urea)E " GrIV (GrIII (Urea)E " GrIV (Urea)E		8.197	15.803
Assumption test:	Kolmogor	ov and Smirnov (KS)	method have	e been used.
Group	KS	P value	Passed norm	nality test?
GrI (Urea)E	0.1433	> 0.10	YE	S
GrII (Urea)E	0.1422	> 0.10	YE	ES
GrIII (Urea)E	0.1694	> 0.10	YE	ES
GrIV (Urea)E	0.2065	> 0.10	YE	S

Table 10. Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV [Urea Post test]

(Urea) E=Urea post test values.

patient reported hearing loss. Adverse reaction profiles of the patients are depicted in Fig [12]. Causality assessment showed all 71 subjects developed ADRs. Total ADRs were 230. Causality assessment revealed that 217 ADRs (94.35%) belonged to "probable/likely" category, whereas 13 (5.65%) were of "possible" type according to the WHO-UMC scale. Figure [13] gave a pictorial view of this observation. No case could be labelled "certain", as rechallenge was not attempted by the attending physician. The Naranjo's adverse reaction probability scale also revealed almost the similar finding i.e., 95.22% were in "probable" category and 4.78% were in "possible" category. **Analysis**

Amikacin is a commonly used antibacterial drug that can cause significant nephrotoxic effects in both human and experimental animals. It has been reported that one mechanism of the toxic effects of aminoglycoside antibiotic are the result of oxidative reactions.³⁹

Animal Experiment

In this study, we investigated whether the oxidative stress parameters of experimental groups were statistically significant or not among the tissues. MDA was measured from rat blood to see the protective role of L Carnitine & Cholecalciferol on amikacin induced nephropathy. In addition, serum creatinine and urea were determined as indicators of nephropathy. There are so many studies where antioxidants were used with aminoglycosides to see their nephroprotective potential, but in all such cases antioxidants were used few hour/days before giving amikacin^{40,41,42} which may increase patient's hospital stay and therefore hospital related expenses, keeping in

CREATININE [Post test values] Tukey Kramer Multiple Comparisons Test

-				
Comparison		Mean Difference	e q	P value
GrI (Cr)E vs GrII (Cr)	E	-0.5440	19.732	***P< 0.001
GrI (Cr)E vs GrIII (Cr	·)E	-0.3200	11.607	***P<0.001
GrI (Cr)E vs Gr IV (C	r)E	-0.1700	6.166	***P< 0.001
GrII (Cr)E vs GrIII (C	GrII (Cr)E vs GrIII (Cr)E		8.125	***P< 0.001
GrII (Cr)E vs Gr IV (Cr)E		0.3740	13.565	***P< 0.001
GrIII (Cr)E vs Gr IV (Cr)E		0.1500	5.441	**P< 0.01
Difference		Mean Difference	95% confi	dence interval
			From	То
GrI (Cr)E - GrII (Cr)E	Ξ	-0.5440	-0.6491	-0.4389
GrI (Cr)E- GrIII (Cr)I	Ξ	-0.3200	-0.4251	-0.2149
GrI (Cr)E- GrIV (Cr)I	E	-0.1700	-0.2751	-0.06489
GrII (Cr)E - GrIII (Cr)E	0.2240	0.1189	0.3291
GrII (Cr)E - GrIV (Cr)E	0.3740	0.2689	0.4791
GrIII (Cr)E - GrIV (C	r)E	0.1500	-0.04489	0.2551
Assumption test	:: Kolmogo	rov and Smirnov (KS	b) method have	been used.
Group	KS	P value	Passed norm	ality test?
GrI (Cr)E	0.2441	>0.10	YE	5
GrII (Cr)E	0.2085	>0.10	YES	S
GrIII (Cr)E	0.2218	>0.10	YES	S

Table 11. Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV [Creatinine Post test]

(Cr) E=Creatinine post test values

mind the above we tried to use L Carnitine and Cholecalciferol along with the Amikacin for same duration.

We made an analysis with those baseline values (B) of individual variables in all 4 groups and found insignificant P values ^[Table 3] which were

MDA [Post test values] Tukey Kramer Multiple Comparisons Test

		-		-
Comparison		Mean Difference	q	P value
GrI (MDA)E vs GrII (N	/IDA)E	-5.695	37.995	***P< 0.001
GrI (MDA)E vs GrIII (MDA)E	-1.132	7.552	***P< 0.001
GrI (MDA)E vs Gr IV	(MDA)E	-1.734	11.569	***P< 0.001
GrII (MDA)E vs GrIII	(MDA)E	4.563	30.442	***P< 0.001
rII (MDA)E vs Gr IV (MDA)E		3.961	26.426	***P< 0.001
GrIII (MDA)E vs Gr IV	(MDA)E	-0.6020	4.016	**P< 0.05
Difference		Mean Difference	95% confi	dence interval
			From	То
GrI (MDA)E - GrII (M	DA)E	-5.695	-6.266	-5.124
GrI (MDA)E- GrIII (M	DA)E	-1.132	-1.703	-0.5605
GrI (MDA)E- GrIV (M	IDA)E	-1.734	-2.305	-1.163
GrII (MDA)E - GrIII (I	MDA)E	4.563	3.992	5.134
GrII (MDA)E - GrIV (MDA)E	3.961	3.390	4.532
GrIII (MDA)E - GrIV	(MDA)E	-0.6020	-1.173	-0.03053
Assumption test:	Kolmogor	ov and Smirnov (KS)	method have	been used.
Group	KS	P value	Passed norm	ality test?
GrI (MDA)E	0.1839	>0.10	YE	S
GrII (MDA)E	0.1617	>0.10	YE	S
GrIII (MDA)E	0.1657	>0.10	YE	S

Table 12. Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV	[MDA Post test]
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(MDA) E=MDA post test values.

 Table 13. Differences of Mean of individual variables of individual group before test (B) and after test(E)

Parameters	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV
UREA				
Mean (B)	27.3	27	26.3	28.6
Mean (E)	27.1	59.4	47.4	35.4
Difference (E-B)	-0.2	32.4	21.1	6.8
CREATININE				
Mean (B)	0.5	0.48	0.48	0.49
Mean (E)	0.53	1.074	0.85	0.70
Difference (E-B)	0.03	0.594	0.37	0.21
MDA				
Mean (B)	2.037	1.928	1.686	1.809
Mean (E)	2.046	7.741	3.178	3.78
Difference (E-B)	0.009	5.813	1.492	1.971

1615

Group I (Control)

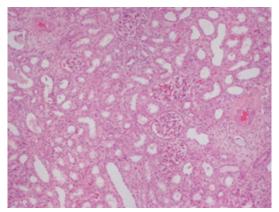


Fig 1. Illustrating collecting ducts which are of relatively large diameter and pale stained columnar cells

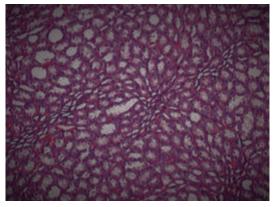


Fig. 2. Normal histology of renal medulla

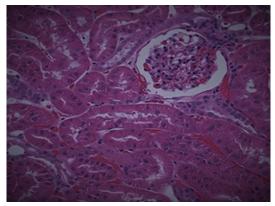


Fig 3. Renal medulla showing different parts of loop of Henle and collecting tubules

Group II (Amikacin + Vehicle)

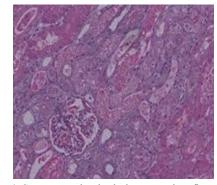


Fig. 4. Severe proximal tubular necrosis reflected by diffuse cellular vacuolation

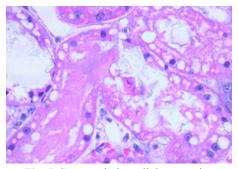


Fig. 5. Severe tubular cell degeneration

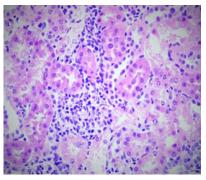


Fig. 6. Moderate tubular interstitial inflammation

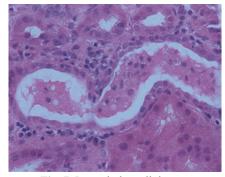


Fig. 7. Intratubular cellular cast

Group III (Amikacin + Vehicle + L-carnitine)

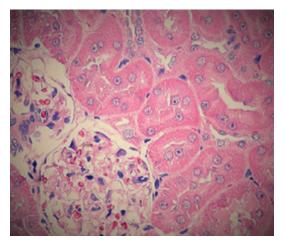


Fig. 8. Regenerative changes in tubular cells

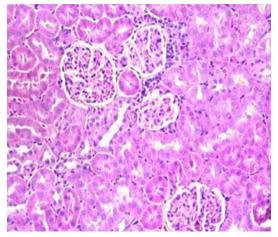


Fig. 9. Peritubular inflammatory cell infiltration

quite expected as chemotherapy was not started that time. We again collected group wise blood samples after completion of the chemotherapy schedule (E) for further analysis of the same variables (urea, creatinine, and MDA).Paired t test of group wise individual variables (B & E) was done using Graph Pad Prism version.4.

We know that p values < 0.05 is significant. We found, P values in group I were insignificant for all variable [Table: 5] as per expectations, as only sterile water for injection was given to them. In group II, group III and in group IV, all p values found were significant for each variable [Table: 6-8]. The paired t test clearly denotes that amikacin, amikacin and L Carnitine, amikacin and cholecalciferol

Group IV (Amikacin + Vehicle + Cholecalciferol)

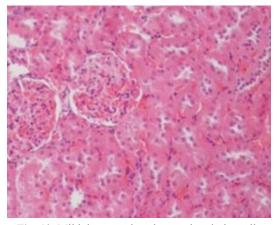


Fig. 10. Mild degenerative changes in tubular cells with swelling of glomerulus

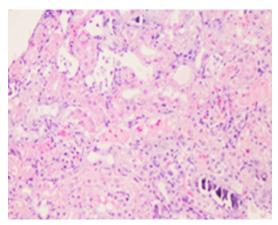


Fig. 11. Mild tubulo-interstitial inflammation

all increase urea, creatinine, and MDA but our objective was to find a better combination which is least nephrotoxic. Therefore again, we started analysis in between all groups ^[Table 9] and taking all individual post-test values using ANOVA. Here we found extremely significant p value of 0.0001, in each group and in each variable ^[TABLE 10-12]. Variation among column means it is significantly greater than expected by chance, therefore comparison of post-test values of urea, creatinine, and MDA were done in between all 4 groups by means of Tukey Kramer Multiple Comparisons Test and found significant p values in every group. All baseline (B) and post-test values (E) were tested for normality through assumption test and passed. Mean of each variable in each group before and after the therapy was tabulated and difference between them was calculated ^[TABLE 13]. We found that, baseline mean of urea were almost equal for each group whereas mean of post test values were highest, second highest, third highest and least in group II, III, IV and in group I, respectively. Least post test mean value of urea was quite expected in group I, as no medication was used there. It denotes that, group IV (amikacin + vehicle + cholecalciferol) is less nephrotoxic than group III (amikacin + vehicle + L Carnitine). Indirectly it makes cholecalciferol a

HP Slides		GrI $(n_1=10)$	GrII $(n_2=10)$	GrIII $(n_3=10)$	$GrIV(n_4=10)$
Parameters examined	Semi quantitative grading				
TD	Mild (0-10%)	0	0	2	2
S	Moderate (10-25%)	0	1	1	0
	Severe (25-50%)	0	7	0	0
	Very severe (Ã 50%)	0	2	0	0
Moder	Mild (0-10%)	0	0	2	0
	Moderate (10-25%)	0	4	0	0
	Severe (25-50%)	0	4	0	0
	Very severe (Ã 50%)	0	2	0	0
Mod Seve	Mild (0-10%)	0	2	1	0
	Moderate (10-25%)	0	7	0	0
	Severe (25-50%)	0	1	0	0
	Very severe (Ã 50%)	0	0	0	0
MVC M M Se	Mild (0-10%)	0	2	2	0
	Moderate (10-25%)	0	6	0	0
	Severe (25-50%)	0	2	0	0
	Very severe (Ã 50%)	0	0	0	0
CASTS	Diffuse	0	4	0	0
	Focal	0	6	0	0

Table 14. Histopathological analysis

n= sample size

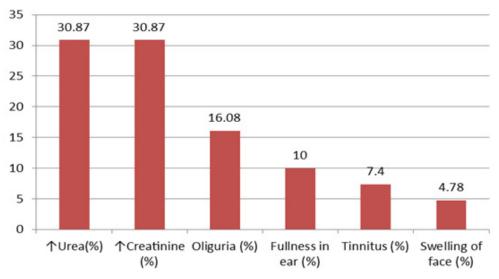


Fig. 12. Adverse drug reaction profiles

1618

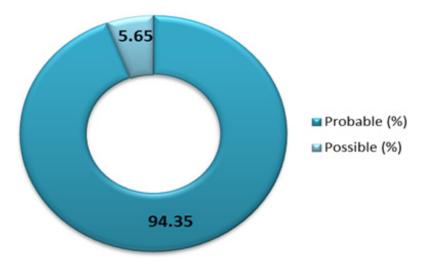


Fig. 13. WHO UMC Causality Assessment

better drug to use with amikacin, than L Carnitine. In case of creatinine, baseline values were almost equal for each group whereas mean of post test values were highest, second highest, third highest and least in group II, III, IV and I respectively. Again, least post-test mean value of creatinine in group I, can easily be explained as no medication was used in this group. It denotes that, group IV is less nephrotoxic than group III. Indirectly it gives cholecalciferol again a higher position than L Carnitine in respect to nephroprotective potential. Like urea and creatinine, result of MDA was no exception. Though, post-test mean value of MDA in group III (3.178) and group IV (3.78) was close enough but statistically it was significant to reach to an opinion [TABLE 13] that Cholecalciferol is slightly better than L Carnitine here to combat oxidative stress.

Biochemical parameters are basically indirect evidence of nephropathy, so we planned for renal histopathology which is more specific and direct evidence of nephropathy. In control group (group I), all histopathology slides were normal ^[Fig. 1-3] as expected because no medications were used there. Group II showed enormous changes like severe proximal tubular necrosis, severe tubular cell degeneration ^[Fig.5] reflected by diffuse cellular vacuolation ^[Fig.6] and intratubular cellular cast ^[Fig.7] etc. which clearly indicates nephropathy. As amikacin were used in group II and vehicle had no effects on kidney. Group II histopathology and biochemical parameter analysis clearly indicates amikacin as the culprit. Amikacin administration led to granulovacuolar tubular degeneration in light microscopic examination whereas myeloid bodies, mitochondrial electron dense material deposition and mitochondrial swelling in electron microscopic evaluation.³⁹ That study also suggests that in elderly and in compromised renal condition, doses of amikacin should be lower than those administered to young adults. Nevertheless, administration interval may have to be prolonged to guarantee no toxic accumulation of amikacin. Regenerative changes in tubular cells [Fig.8] and restoration of normal microanatomy to some extent with Peritubular inflammatory cell infiltration [Fig.9] were found in group III histopathology where L Carnitine was used along with the amikacin, and it clearly showed beneficial effects of L Carnitine. Group IV histopathology report showed mild degenerative changes in tubular cells with swelling of glomerulus [Fig.10] and mild tubulointerstitial inflammation [Fig.11] where we used cholecalciferol in place of L Carnitine. The degenerative and inflammatory changes found here were milder enough than group II. It concluded that cholecalciferol is also beneficial for kidney to some extent if we use it with amikacin. In our study one of our primary objectives was to find the better alternative in between L Carnitine and Cholecalciferol, therefore we again tabulated the histopathology based on tubular degeneration, tubular necrosis, tubular interstitial inflammation, Medullary vascular congestion, and presence of diffuse or focal casts ^[Table 14]. Semi quantitative gradation was done based on percentage of area affected per representative field (Mild: 0-10%, Moderate: 10-20%, Severe: 25-50%, Very severe: >50%). Here we found that the severity of degeneration, inflammation and necrosis were much more in group II or amikacin group, whereas least in group I (control group) and group IV found much more beneficial than group III.

After the completion of animal experiment, we concluded that, cholecalciferol is better drug than l-carnitine. Biochemical as well as histopathological data significantly proved better nephroprotective potential of cholecalciferol in terms of controlling amikacin induced nephropathy.

Some rodent studies are reassuring, revealing no evidence of teratogenicity or IUGR despite the use of amikacin doses higher than those used clinically.^{43,44} Those study also opine that aminoglycoside can damage the foetal kidney presumably because of delayed clearance, and irreversible failure has been reported after some aminoglycosides, but not amikacin.

Clinical Observation

1620

In our secondary objective we tried to correlate our observational findings of amikacin induced ADR with the primary objective and to find out what type of ADR were happening mostly due to amikacin. Analysis was done through WHO UMC causality assessment scale [Fig.13]. Oliguria, swelling of face, increased urea, increased creatinine, fullness of ear and tinnitus were found & reported accordingly but there were no hearing loss and new ADR apart from nephropathy and ototoxicity. Blood samples of all the patient had been sent for urea and creatinine analysis before and after the amikacin therapy by the attending physician. We found 271 ADR from 71 patient who were in amikacin therapy during our study period. Increased urea and creatinine were found in all 71 patient (30.87%), oliguria was found in 16.08%, fullness of ear was 10%, tinnitus found in 7.4% and swelling of face was in 4.78%. There were 9 patients with swelling of face, who denied IV fluid and were eating bottled water even though adequate hydration was advised in all BHT. Some reports were not taken into consideration as they willingly left the treatment in midway after signing the discharge on request form and few was absconded. WHO UMC causality assessment showed 94.35% were probable and the rest were possible. Naranjo's probability scale showed almost the same result, here 95.22% was probable and possible was 4.78%.

In our present study, MDA was determined from animals only as there was short supply of reagent. All other biomarkers for oxidative stress (superoxide dismutase etc.) were not done, because it could not be possible to arrange huge amount of blood from a tiny animals like rat. PAS stain for histopathology was not done due to reagent scarcity. Tissue homogenizer was not present in our present set up; therefore, we could not arrange for homogenization of tissues which might be helpful to do another biomarker test. Both the biochemical and histopathology study showed cholecalciferol is better than L Carnitine to ameliorate amikacin induced nephropathy. Hence increased serum urea and creatinine were found in both clinical observation and animal experiment after amikacin therapy. Hence in this study clinical and experimental findings were at par with each other.

CONCLUSIONS

Interventional animal experiment, biochemical parameters, histopathology along with open label, non interventional, prospective observational study clearly indicates cholecalciferol is significantly better than l-carnitine to minimise the effects of amikacin induced nephropathy.

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All the authors here have no conflict of interest.

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Statement of informed consent

Approval from The Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) and Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC) were obtained prior to initiation of study. Patients were recruited after fulfilling all the inclusion and exclusion criteria and after signing the written informed consent form.

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