

**HYPOTHALAMIC-PITUITARY-TESTICULAR-AXIS
RESPONSE IN WISTAR RAT TREATED WITH
CHLORPROMAZINE, *RAUWOLFIA VOMITORIA* LEAF
AND COMBINATION OF RESERPINE, ASCORBATE
AND ZINC**

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research work was done and written by ADELEKE Opeyemi Samson with Matric number 12/68LD001 and it has been read and approved as meeting the requirements of the Department of Anatomy, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy degree.

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the Creator of the Universe – God Almighty –who has been helping me in all my endeavours.

DECLARATION

I, ADELEKE Opeyemi Samson with matric number 12/68LD001 hereby declare that this thesis entitled Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Testicular-Axis response in Wistar rat treated with Chlorpromazine, *Rauwolfia Vomitoria* leaf and combination of Reserpine, Ascorbate and Zinc is a record of my research work. It has neither been presented nor accepted in any previous application for a higher degree. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged. In addition, the research work has been ethically approved by the University Ethical Review Committee (UERC/ASN/2017/1067).

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Date

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Abstract

Synthetic antipsychotic drugs have been reported to induce reproductive toxicity while psychiatric patients treated with traditionally used herb like *Rauwolfia vomitoria* (RV) showed no traces of reproductive toxicity. Molecular mechanisms underlying control of Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Testicular-Axis (HPTA) by synthetic and traditionally used antipsychotic drugs are poorly understood. Thus, this study aimed to compare the effects of chlorpromazine (CPZ), RV leaf extracts and combination of reserpine, ascorbic acid and zinc (RAZ) on HPT-Axis of Wistar rats. The objectives of the study were to determine: (i) histological changes in the testes and hypothalamus; (ii) gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), cytokeratin-18, Bcl₂ and ki-67 protein expression; (iii) expression of Cyclic-adenosine-monophosphate Responsive Element Modulator (CREM), protamine (PRM) genes in the testes (iv) andrological parameters; and (v) antioxidant status.

Seventy-two male Wistar rats (weight: 180.00±4.67g) were assigned into nine groups (A-I) (n=8). Group A (control) was administered physiological saline while rats in Groups B and C received 10 and 20 mg/kg body weight (bwt) of chlorpromazine respectively. Groups D and E received 2.5 and 5 mg/kg bwt of reserpine while Groups F and G received 150 and 300 mg/kg bwt of RV leaf extract respectively. Groups H and I received (2.5:5:100) mg/kg bwt and (5:10:200) mg/kg of combination of RAZ respectively. The administration lasted for 56 days. On the 57th day, the rats were sacrificed, hypothalamus and testes were excised for histological, genes and immunohistochemical examinations while serum was used for hormonal analysis (follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH), testosterone, sperm count, motility and morphology) and biochemical analysis (glutathione peroxidase (Gpx), superoxide dismutase (SOD) and malondialdehyde). Data analyses were done by Analysis of Variance followed by *Tukey's post-hoc* test at P<0.05 level of significant.

The findings of the study were that:

- i. chlorpromazine and reserpine treated rats showed hypothalamic arcuate neurons and testicular germ cells degeneration;
- ii. chlorpromazine and reserpine treated rats showed negative immunoreactivity to GnRH and ki-67 and weak positive immunoreactivity to cytokeratin and Bcl₂ proteins while

RV and combination of RAZ treated rats showed weak positive immunoreactivity to all the proteins;

- iii. chlorpromazine and reserpine treated rats when compared with control and RAZ groups showed significant ($p<0.001$) down regulation of CREM (0.32 ± 0.05), protamine-I (0.14 ± 0.02) and II (0.13 ± 0.02) genes expression;
- iv. serum FSH (0.19 ± 0.03 ng/ml), LH (0.33 ± 0.06 ng/ml), testosterone (0.15 ± 0.02 ng/ml), percentage of normal sperm count (17.40 ± 2.59), motility (19.60 ± 2.86) and morphology (16.60 ± 2.91) were significantly ($p<0.001$) decreased in chlorpromazine and reserpine treated animals while prolactin (0.11 ± 0.03 ng/ml) level was significantly ($p<0.01$) increased when compared with control and RAZ groups; and
- v. serum GPx (21.00 ± 3.50 U/L), SOD (0.54 ± 0.12 u/mL) levels were significantly ($p<0.001$) reduced in chlorpromazine and reserpine treated rats while malondialdehyde (0.79 ± 0.15) level was significantly ($p<0.001$) increased compared with control and RAZ groups.

The study concluded that HPT-Axis was impaired by chlorpromazine and reserpine while *RV* and combination of RAZ (2.5:5:100) mg/kg bwt administration enhanced the axis. The study recommended that combination of RAZ should be prescribed in order to improve reproductive toxicity associated with antipsychotic drugs.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Pages
Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Declaration	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	viii
List of Figures	xiv
List of Abbreviation	xvi
CHAPTER ONE	
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the study	1
1.2 Research Justification	7
1.3 Statement of the Research Problem	8
1.4 Significant of study	9
1.5 Broad Objectives of the Study	9
1.6 The specific objectives	9
1.7 Scope of the Study	10
CHAPTER TWO	
2.0 Literature review	11

2.1	The Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis	11
2.1.1	The Hypothalamus	13
2.1.2	The Pituitary Gland	14
2.1.2.1	Anterior Pituitary	15
2.1.3	Feedback Control of Gonadotropins	15
2.2	Anatomy of the Testes	16
2.2.1	The Convolutd Seminiferous Tubules	18
2.2.2	Spermatozoa	18
2.2.3	Sertoli Cells	19
2.2.4	Vascular Supply of the Testes	20
2.2.5	Spermatogenesis	21
2.2.5.1	Stages of spermatogenesis	21
2.3	Ascorbic Acid	23
2.3.1	Molecular Structure	24
2.3.2	Biosynthesis of L-ascorbic acid	25
2.3.3	Metabolism of L-ascorbic acid	26
2.3.4	Ascorbic acid redox metabolism	26
2.3.5	Ascorbic acid availability and transport	27
2.3.6	Biological pathways of L-ascorbic acid	28
2.3.7	Vitamin E regeneration by Vitamin C	32
2.3.8	Pro-oxidant effect of vitamin C	32
2.3.9	Vitamin C in human disease:	33
2.3.10	Dietary requirement of ascorbate	34

2.3.11	Role of Ascorbate in Male Reproduction	35
2.4	Zinc	37
2.4.1	Roles of Zn in health	39
2.4.2	Zinc's functions in male reproductive system	40
2.4.3	Mechanism of Zn transport in cells and at molecular level	43
2.5	Chlorpromazine	46
2.5.1	Systemic Effects of Chlorpromazine	47
2.5.2	Chlorpromazine mechanism of action	48
2.5.3	Roles of Chlorpromazine in male reproduction	50
2.6	Plant of study (<i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i>)	51
2.6.1	Study of <i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i> on body organs	52
2.7	Reserpine	55
2.7.1	Mechanism of action of Reserpine	56
2.7.2	Reserpine's role in male reproduction	57
2.8	Role of dopamine in the testes	58
2.9	Role of CREM and Protamine Genes in Spermatogenesis	60
 CHAPTER THREE		
3.0	Materials and Methods	63
3.1	Animal models	63
3.2	Experimental design	63
3.3	Materials	64
3.3.1	Authentication and Ethanolic extraction of <i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i> leaves	64

3.3.1	Chlorpromazine, Reserpine, Zinc and Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) Preparation	64
3.4	Procedures	64
3.4.1	Animal Body weights index	64
3.4.2	Animal Sacrifies and Samples Collection	65
3.4.3	Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction Analysis	66
3.4.4	Hormone Measuring Assay	68
3.4.4.1	Prolactin hormone assay	68
3.4.4.2	Follicle stimulating hormone assay	69
3.4.4.3	Luteinizing hormone assay	69
3.4.4.4	Testosterone hormone assay	69
3.4.4.5	GnRH hormone assay	71
3.4.5	Biochemical examination	72
3.4.5.1	Protocol for Dopamine Assay	72
3.4.5.2	Protocol for Superoxide Dismutase Assay	74
3.4.5.3	Protocol for Lipid Peroxidation	75
3.4.5.4	Protocol for Glutathione Peroxidase	77
3.4.6	Sperm Analysis	78
3.4.6.1	Sperm count	78
3.4.6.2	Sperm motility	79
3.4.6.3	Sperm Morphology	80
3.4.7	Histological examination	80
3.4.8	Immunohistochemical examination	82

3.4.9	Germinal Cell Count	82
3.5	Statistical analysis	83
CHAPTER FOUR		
4.0	Results Analysis	84
4.1	Moephometric Analysis	84
4.2	Reverse Transcriptase-PCR Gene Analysis	85
4.2.1	RT-PCR Crem Gene Result	85
4.2.2	RT-PCR PRM-1 Gene Result	86
4.2.3	RT-PCR PRM-2 gene Result	87
4.3	Hormonal Analysis	89
4.3.1	Serum Follicle Stimulating Hormone Concentration	89
4.3.2	Serum Luteinizing Hormone Concentration	90
4.3.3	Serum Testosterone Hormone Concentration	91
4.3.4	Serum Prolactin Hormone Concentration	92
4.3.5	Hypothalamic GnRH Concentration	93
4.4	Biochemical Analysis	94
4.4.1	Serum Malondialdehyde Concentration	94
4.4.2	Serum Superoxide Dismutase Concentration	95
4.4.3	Serum Glutathione Peroxidase Concentration	96
4.4.4	Serum Dopamine Concentration	97
4.5	Sperm Analysis	98
4.5.1	Total Sperm Count Grading	98

4.5.2	Normal Sperm Morphology Grading	99
4.5.3	Motile Sperm Grading	100
4.6	Histplogical Examination OF Testes And Hypothalamus	101
4.6.1	Testes Stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin dye	101
4.6.2	Hypothalamus Stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin dye	107
4.7	Immunohistological Examination OF Testes	112
4.7.1	Ki-67 Protein expression in Rats' Testes	112
4.7.2	Cytokeratin-18 Protein expression in Rats' Testes	118
4.7.3	Bcl ₂ Protein expression in Rats' Testes	123
4.8	Germinal Cell Count	128
4.8.2	Germ Cell Apoptotic Index	129
4.8.3	Sertoli Cell Index	130
5.0	DISCUSSION	131
6.0	SUMMARY	140
6.1	Conclusion	142
6.2	Recommendation	142
6.3	Contributions to the body of knowledge	142
6.4	Suggestion for further study	143

REFERENCES

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
2.1:	Shown schematic illustration of HPG-axis regulation	12
2.2:	Shown Cross section of the testis and epididymis	17
2.3:	Shown schematic anatomy of the mature spermatozoa	19
2.4:	Showing the stages of spermatogenesisSpermiogenesis	22
2.5	Shown image and chemical structure of dehydroascorbic acid	25
2.6:	Scheme for zinc dissemination in cells	45
2.7	Shown image and chemical structure of Chlorpromazine	47
2.8	Shown image of <i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i>	55
2.9	Shown image and Chemical structure of Reserpine	56
3.1:	Shown separation of hypothalamic nuclei	66
4.1.1	Shown comparison in animals' body weight gain	84
4.2.1:	Showed comparison in CREM gene expression among the groups	85
4.2.2:	Showed comparison in PRM-1 gene expression among the groups	86
4.2.3:	Showed comparison in PRM-2 gene expression among the groups	87
4.3.1:	Showed comparison in Serum FSH Concentration among the groups	89
4.3.2:	Showed comparison in Serum LH Concentration among the groups	90
4.3.3:	Showed comparison in Serum Testosterone Concentration among the groups	91
4.3.4:	Showed comparison in Serum Prolactin Concentration among the groups	92
4.3.5:	Showed comparison in hypothalamic GnRH Concentration among the groups	93
4.4.1:	Showed comparison in Serum MDA Concentration among the groups	94

4.4.2:	Showed comparison in Serum SOD Concentration among the groups	95
4.4.3:	Showed comparison in Serum GPx Concentration among the groups	96
4.4.4:	Showed comparison in Serum Dopamine Concentration among the groups	97
4.5.1:	Showed comparison in total sperm count grading among the groups	98
4.5.2:	Showed comparison in normal sperm morphology among the groups	99
4.5.3:	Showed comparison in Motile Sperm Grading among the groups	100
4.6.1	Testes stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin dyes	101
4.6.2:	Hypothalamus Stained with Hematoxylin and Eosin dyes	107
4.7.1:	Ki-67 Protein expression in Rats' Testes	112
4.7.2:	Cytokeratin-18 Protein expression in Rats' Testes	118
4.7.3	Bcl ₂ Protein expression in Rats' Testes	123
4.8.1:	Showed comparison in germ cell proliferation index among the groups	128
4.8.2:	Showed comparison in germ cell apoptotic index among the groups	129
4.8.3:	Showed comparison in sertoli cell index among the groups	130
5.1	Shown FSH, CREM and Protamines signaling pathways	141

List of Abbreviations

5-HT1 and 5-HT2	Serotonin receptors
ACT	Activator of CREM in testis
AFR	ascorbate free radical
AMH	anti-müllerian hormone
Arc	arcuate
AVPV	anteroventral periventricular
Bwt	Body weight
cAMP	Cyclic adenosine monophosphate
COMT	Catechol-O-methyltransferase
CPZ	Chlorpromazine
CRE	cAMP responsive elements
CREB1	cAMP response element-binding protein
CREM	Cyclic-adenosine-monophosphate Responsive Element Modulator
CVD	cardiovascular disease
D	Dopamine
DHA	Dehydroascorbic acid
DHT	dihydrotestosterone
DMSO	dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
Fe²⁺	ferrous

Fe³⁺	ferric
FSH	Follicle stimulating hormone
FSHR	Follicle stimulating hormone receptor
GATA4	GATA Binding Protein 4
GLUT	glucose transporter
GnRH	Gonadotrophin releasing hormone
GPx	Glutathione peroxidase
H₂O₂	hydrogen peroxide
HCG	human chorionic gonadotropin
H & E	Hematoxyline and Eosin
HED	human equivalent dose
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HPTA	Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Testicular-Axis
HRP	Horse Radish Peroxidase
KIF17	Kinesin family member 17
LDL	low density lipoproteins
L-DOPA	levodopa
LH	Luteinizing hormone
MAO	monoamine oxidase
MDA	Malondialdehyde
NO	nitric oxide
oxLDL	oxidatively modified low density lipoprotein

PKA	Protein Kinase A
pNPP	p-nitrophenylphosphate
POA	preoptic area
PRL	prolactine
RAZ	Reserpine, Ascorbate and Zinc
RDA	Recommended Dietary Allowance
REM	Rapid eye movement
RES	Reserpine
RNA	ribonucleic acid
ROS	reactive oxygen species
RT-PCR	Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction Analysis
RV	<i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i>
SLE	systemic lupus erythematosus
SOD	Superoxide dismutase
SOX9	sex determining region Y
SRY	Sex region Y
SVCT	sodium-dependent vitamin C transporter-type 1 ascorbate transporter
TH	tyrosine hydroxylase
TSH	thyroid-stimulating hormone
TUNEL	Terminal deoxynucleotidyl Transferase Biotin-dUTP Nick End Labeling
UERC	University of Ilorin ethical review committee
Vit C	Vitamin C

VMAT	vesicular monoamine transporter
VSMC	Vascular smooth muscle cell
Zfp	zinc finger protein
Zn	Zinc