

Screening of Gastric Antiulcer Activity of *Sida acuta* Burm

S.Akilandeswari*, R.Senthamarai, R.Valarmathi, S.Shanthi and S.Prema¹

Periyar College of Pharmaceutical Sciences for Girls,
Tiruchirapalli – 620 021, Tamil Nadu, India

1.Faculty of Sciences, Department of Siddha Medicine,
Tamil University, Tanjore, India

*Corres. Author : akipcog@yahoo.co.in

Abstract: Ulcers were introduced in 36 hrs fasted albino rats of either sex by aspirin plus pylorus ligation, aspirin, and ethanol treatment. Each induction model had four groups namely control, test and standard. In each model of ulcer induction, group that was pre-dosed with the ethanolic extract of leaves of *Sida acuta* showed a considerable degree of antiulcer activity in comparison to positive controlled treated group. The antiulcer activity was appraised by determining and comparing the ulcer index in the test drug groups with that of the control group as well as Famotidine (20mg/kg) was used as reference drug. The results revealed significant antiulcer activity by reducing the ulcer index in the above model. The results obtained were verified with one way ANOVA followed by Scheff's (multiple range test) and found to be significant at ($p < 0.001$).

Keywords: Pylorus, Aspirin, Ethanolic extract, Famotidine.

Introduction

Peptic ulcer is an inflamed break in the lining of the stomach or the duodenum caused due to either increased acid production or damage to the mucus lining of the stomach. In most conditions the event of peptic ulcer is due to an imbalance taking place because of increased hydrochloride acid secretion and decreased cytoprotective activity of the mucosal barrier¹. The path physiology of PUD involves an imbalance between offensive (acid, pepsin & *Helicobacter Pylori*) and defensive factors (mucin, prostaglandin, bicarbonate, nitric oxide & growth factors)². Herbal medicines for the treatment or prevention of digestive disorders³. Numerous plants herbs are used to treat gastrointestinal disorders in traditional medicine. There has been renewed interest in identifying new antiulcer drugs from natural sources⁴.

Sida acuta an erect, perennial under shrub (or) shrub, 1.5m. high, distributed throughout the hotter parks of India and Nepal. This species is not only important as a medicine, but also yield a good fibre. Leaves are considered to possess demulcent and

diuretic properties and are used in rheumatic affections. They are smeared with gingelly oil and applied to suppurate ulcers. The juice of the leaves is boiled in oil and applied to testicular swellings and in elephantiasis. In the Philippines, leaves are employed for making poultices for sores. In Africa leaves are used as an abortifacient. Decoction of the leaves and root is credited with emollient and tonic properties leaf juice is given for relief in chest pain and as an anthelmintic⁵.

Material and Methods

Experimental animals

The study was conducted on wistar albino rats weighing 178.79 ± 9.35 g of either sex and maintained under standard environmental conditions as per a specific design (10% air exhaust in air conditioning unit was maintained along with a relative humidity of 60 ± 5 % and a temp of 25 ± 3^0) with 12 hrs light and dark cycle. The animals were deprived of food for 36hrs but water was provided ad libitum to experimental animals. All experimental protocols were

reviewed and accepted by the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC) No:265/CPCSEA prior to the initiation of the experiment.

Preparation of plant extract:

The leaves of *Sida acuta* was collected from the various localities of Trichy and authenticated. The collected plant materials were cleaned, shade dried and powdered. The coarse powders were extracted with ethanol (90% v/v) in Soxhlet apparatus. The crude ethanolic extracts obtained were concentrated under vacuum with controlled temperature (40-45°C) and a semisolid mass (30% w/w respective of dry starting materials) was obtained and stored in a dessicator.

Ulcer induction procedure:

Gastric ulcers were induced in the experimental animals by Pylorus ligation, and administration of Aspirin (300mg/kg), Ethanol(1ml/kg). For pharmacological investigation animals were divided in to 4 groups, 6 animals each. (group-I to group-IV). 36hrs fasted animals were used. Group I-served as control which received calculated dose of 0.2% agar. Group II&III was dosed with test extract 100 mg/kg, 200 mg/kg and 0.2% agar respectively at least 30 min prior the procedure to be carried out for ulcer induction. Group IV- Acted as standard or reference which received Famotidine(20mg/kg). Throughout the experiments water was provided by ad libitum and food was withdrawn from animals.

Aspirin Plus Pylorus ligation treatment induced ulcers

Both aspirin treatments as well as pylorus ligation procedure was used to induce peptic ulcers. All the animals received drug/ extract treatment along with 300 mg/kg of aspirin suspended in 0.2% agar once daily for five days. On the sixth day the 36 hrs fasted rats were subjected to pylorus ligation. They were sacrificed after 4hrs of post surgery and their intact stomachs were excised, observed and the contents were emptied in to a graduated centrifuge. The collected gastric juice was centrifuged at 3000rpm for 30 min and the volume of gastric juice was measured. Total acidity in the supernatants was determined with 0.01 N NaOH and expressed as m.Eq/l gastric juice. The stomach was cut open along the greater curvature and pinned on a soft board for ulcer scoring⁶.

Aspirin induced ulcers

The animals were received with aspirin suspended in 0.2% agar (300mg/kg body weight). The animals were then left as such for 4hrs after which were sacrificed. The intact stomach was removed in

each animal. Washed in normal saline. The inner lining was observed for ulcer formation and ulcers were scored to obtain the ulcer index⁷.

Ethanol induced ulcers

Animals were orally administrated with 1 ml of 80% ethanol each and then were left as such for 4hrs. the animals were then sacrificed and their intact stomachs were removed, observed and scored to obtain the ulcer index.

Calculation of ulcer index

The mucosal layer of stomach was observed under magnifying lens and was checked for ulcers, hemorrhagic areas perforations. The ulcer index was determined⁸ as Ulcer Index = 10/X Where X= Total area of stomach mucosa / Total ulcerate area).

Statistical analysis

The result of all the assays were reported as mean \pm standard deviation (S.D). Statistical significant difference between the group were calculated by means of one way ANOVA followed by multiple range test especially scheff's test. All the results obtained in the study were compared with the control group and positive control group Famotidine. P values <0.001 were considered statistically significant⁹.

RESULT

Aspirin plus Pylorus ligation model

The effect of plant extracts and famotidine on gastric secretory volume, pH, total and free acidity and gastric ulcers were shown in (Table 1& 2). *Sida acuta* was found to be effective and produced significant effect when compared with the control similar to famotidine.

Pylorus ligation the most widely used method for producing experimental peptic ulcer¹⁰. Pylorus ligation stimulates gastric section and thus the pathology of this experimental peptic ulcer is due to a stimulation of gastric acid secretion^{11,12}. Plant extract of *Sida acuta* exhibited potent antisecretory and anti ulcer property in rat model. The extract reduced gastric secretory volume, acidity and ulceration similar to famotidine.

Ethanol Induced Gastric Lesion

In Ethanol induced gastric lesion, *Sida acuta* produced significant inhibitory action (Table 3). Gastric cytoprotection is maintained by 2 types of barriers namely Gastric mucus barrier and Gastric mucosal barrier. Any agent which interrupts these barriers, will result in cell damage. In this study, ethanol was used as the necrotizing agent. Ethanol induced gastric damage has been soon to be associated with depletion of gastric mucus¹³ breaking of the mucosal barrier^{14,15}, back diffusion of acid, increased

gastric mucosal permeability^{16,17} leads to increasing leak of hydrogen ion from the lumen, decrease in the transmucosal electrical potential difference¹⁸, changes in the mucosal blood flow¹⁹, destruction of microvascular and nonvascular type of cells, mast cell degranulation, neutrophil mediated mucosal injury (release of oxygen free radicals, proteases and lysosomal enzymes, digestion of proteins and lipid peroxidation in cell membrane)²⁰. and depletion of certain oxygen free radical scavenger. Thus it might be anticipated that the extract may interfere in any of the pathogenic process and afford and production against Ethanol induced gastric lesions.

Discussion

The normal control exhibited very severe ulceration especially in Aspirin plus pylorus and aspirin. Hence it may be inferred that aspirin proved to be most potent in gastric ulcer induction. In the aspirin(300mg/kg) plus pylorus ligation model the statistical data 100mg/kg shows significant when compared to famotidine group, which in turn

indicates that the group has get equal activity as that of famotidine. The group 200mg / kg showed significant activity with famotidine which is an indicative of better activity than famotidine group. In the ethanol model the statistical data 100mg/kg shows significant when compared to famotidine group.

Thus in this present study the ethanolic extract of *Sida acuta* was established for its significant antiulcer activity against different ulcer causing agent used in all three ulcer inducing experimental models.

Though authors have not studied the active principles responsible for the antiulcer activity of *Sida acuta* is likely that flavonoids compounds tannins, steroids and triterpenoids present in *Sida acuta* may be involved in this action as flavonoids have been reported to possess significant antiulcer activity in various experimental models of gastric and duodenal ulceration²¹. However further studies are entitled to establish its exact mode of action and the active principles involved in its antiulcer effect.

Table – 1 Effect of Plant extract in Aspirin plus pylorus legation .

S. No	Group	Gastric secretory volume(ml)	pH	Total acidity m.Eq/l	Free acidity m.Eq/l	Ulcer Index
1.	Control	1.8±0.04	1.3±0.01	98±7.3	77±6.3	35.4±3.2
2.	<i>Sida acuta</i> (100mg/kg)	0.73±0.03*	3.8±0.08*	33±3.2*	22±2.1*	15.6±0.9*
3.	<i>Sida acuta</i> (200mg/kg)	0.53±0.02*	4.6±0.06*	31±0.18*	18±1.8*	10.8±0.4*
4.	Famotidine(20mg/kg)	0.50±0.02*	4.10±0.18*	29±1.0*	16±0.9*	10.5±0.8*

Data are expressed as mean ± S.E, n=6

*P>0.001Vs control by student's t-test

Table – 2 Effect of plant extracts on aspirin induced Gastric Ulcer in Rats .

S.No	Group	Dose(mg/kg)	Ulcer Index
1.	Control	-	28.9±2.3
2.	<i>Sida acuta</i> extract	100	20.7±0.97
3.	<i>Sida acuta</i> extract	200	13.2±0.62*
4.	Famotidine	20	11.2±0.8*

Data are expressed as mean ± S.E, n=6

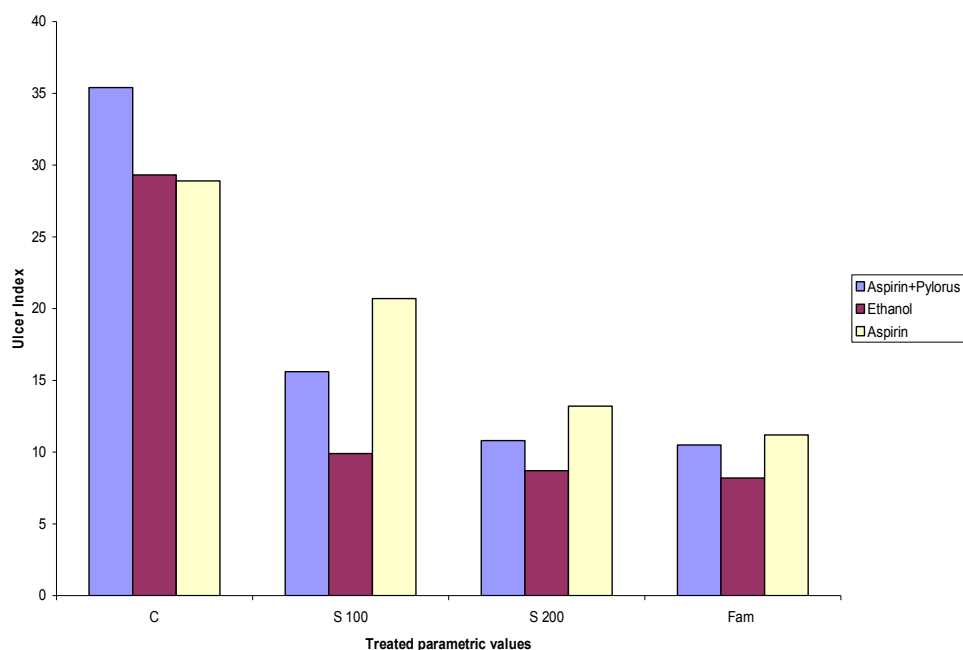
*P>0.001Vs control by student's t-test

Table – 3 Inhibitory effect of Plant extract on ethanol Induced gastric lesions in rats

S.No	Group	Dose(mg/kg)	Mean length of gastric lesions(mm)
1.	Control	-	29.32±1.9*
2.	<i>Sida acuta</i> extract	100	9.9±0.41*
3.	<i>Sida acuta</i> extract	200	8.7±0.54*
4.	Famotidine	20	8.2±0.51*

Data are expressed as mean ± S.E, n=6

*P>0.001Vs control by student's t-test



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