



## Effect of Social Isolation on Oxidative Stress and Transaminase Level

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### ABSTRACT

Study was undertaken to investigate the effect of altered behavioral condition like depression on various oxidative stress markers and biochemical parameters in rats. Rats were subjected for short (21 days) and long term (84 days) social isolation; the rats displayed an increase in depression on force swim test relative to control. Various markers of oxidative stress like lipid per oxidation (LPO), reduced glutathione (GSH), Supers oxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and biochemical parameters like SGOT and SGPT, were determined. There was significant increase in the level of LPO and decrease in the levels of GSH, SOD and CAT after long term isolation. Biochemical parameters were significantly altered after social isolation. Results indicate that increase in oxidative stress in depression which may leads to alteration of biochemical parameters.

**KEY WORDS-** Depression, Oxidative stress, LPO, SGOT, SGPT.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The term "depression" is still somewhat ill-defined covering a range of phenomena from a normal emotion - a natural response to loss or disappointment - to an accompanying symptom common in a variety of physical conditions, up to a clinical psychiatric disorder. [1] It is one of the most common mental disorders among humans and it is associated with a significant negative impact on quality of life, morbidity/mortality, and cognitive function. The pathophysiology of depression is multifactorial and includes changes in brain monoaminergic transmission, abnormalities in neurotransmitter receptors function, reduced neurotrophic factors, dysregulation of HPA axis (cortisol), increased proinflammatory cytokines, increased NO (e.g., L-arginine-NO-cGMP pathway) etc. [2,3,4]

A variety of physiologic and pathophysiologic procedures are believed that reactive oxygen species play an important part in which the expansion of oxidative stress may have a significant function in disease mechanisms. Oxidative stress is defined as the deleterious impact in cell function as a consequence of the loss in homeostatic balance between reactive oxygen species (ROS) and antioxidants in the cellular milieu. ROS are formed

continuously as a result of normal cellular respiration, enzymatic metabolism, and exogenous insults. Oxidative stress has been implicated in the onset and development of several pathological processes including cancer and age-related neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease (PD) [5]

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as  $O_2^-$ ,  $H_2O_2$  and OH are highly toxic to cells. Cellular antioxidant enzymes and the free-radical scavengers normally protect a cell from toxic effects of the ROS. However, when generation of the ROS overtakes the antioxidant defense of the cells, oxidative damage of the cellular macromolecules (lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids) occurs, leading finally to various pathological conditions. ROS-mediated lipid per oxidation, oxidation of proteins, and DNA damage are well-known outcomes of oxygen-derived free radicals, leading to cellular pathology and ultimately to cell death.

### 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

#### Chemicals

Vitamin E, imipramine, Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA), Hydrogen peroxide  $H_2O_2$ , Metaphosphoric acid, Pyrogallol, Thiobarbituric acid (TBA), Tris buffer, Trychloroaceticacid (TCA), 5,5'-Dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic

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acid) (DTNB), Phosphate buffer, Phosphate buffer saline, Drafin's Reagent, SGOT determination kit, SGPT determination kit.

#### Experimental animals

Healthy Male Sprague–Dawley rats (200-250 gm) were used for the pharmacological screening. The animals were housed in polypropylene cages with wire mesh top and husk bedding and maintained under standard environmental conditions ( $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , relative humidity  $60 \pm 5\%$ , light- dark cycle of 12 hours each) and fed with standard pellet diet (Trimurti feeds, Nagpur) and water *ad libitum*, were used for the entire animal study. The experiments were performed during day (08:00- 16:00 hours). The rats were housed and treated according to the rules and regulations of CPCSEA and IAEC. The protocol for all the animal study was approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC). (certification number – 650/02/c/CPCSEA/12 & date 30/09/2011.)

#### Experimental design

The animals were grouped in to 6 groups each group possesses 6 animals as follows: -

**Group I Normal Control group:** Animals were not treated with any drugs or injections

**Group II Negative control group:** Animals were Isolation in dark room and no treatment was given.

**Group III (Social isolation + imipramine):** Animal was treated with imipramine (16 mg/kg, i.p.)

**Group IV (Social isolation + imipramine + Vit. E):** Animals were treated with imipramine i.p.) and Vit. E (100 mg/kg, oral).

Behavioral and Oxidative stress parameters were studied in Socially Isolated rats and normal rats [social isolation for 21 days ( short term) and 84 days (long term)] [6,7]. After short and long term isolation, rats were assessed for behavior using various animal behavioral models like force swim test.

#### Determination of behavioral parameters

##### Forced Swim Test

It was carried out in a cylinder (45x20cm) rat was placed in the cylinder containing 38 cm water ( $25 \pm 20^\circ$ ), so that the rat could not touch the bottom of the cylinder with its hind limb or tail, or climb over the edge of the chamber. Two swim sessions were conducted, an initial 15 min pretest followed by 5 min test 24 h later. Drugs were administered after the pretest. The period of immobility (remained floating in water without struggling and making only those movements necessary to keep its head above water) during 5 min Test period was noted. [8]

##### Tail suspension test (TST)

In this test the rat was hung upside-down using an adhesive tape to fix its tail to a vertical surface (the edge of a laboratory bench). A square platform made of plywood was positioned horizontally 20–30 cm (depending on the animal's size) below the bench, just under the rat's forepaws, in such a way that the rat could lightly touch the platform and thus minimize the weight sustained by its tail. The illumination in the test room was of about 70 lx. During 6 min, the total time of immobility was registered through direct observation. The animal was considered immobile when it was not making any movements of struggling, attempting to catch the adhesive tape, body torsions or jerks. [9]

Sr. No.	Groups	Forced swim test		Tail suspension test	
		21 days	84 days	21 days	84 days
1	Group-I	100.83 $\pm$	106.33 $\pm$	142.83 $\pm$	144.33 $\pm$
		4.26	2.42	5.07	1.50
2	Group-II	145.16 $\pm$	181.50 $\pm$	204.50 $\pm$	244.16 $\pm$
		4.13@	2.81@#	6.89@	4.16@#
3	Group-III	96.66 $\pm$	102.00 $\pm$	155.66 $\pm$	159.50 $\pm$
		2.33**	4.09**	5.50**	3.27@
4	Group-IV	97.16 $\pm$	101.16 $\pm$	159.83 $\pm$	157.66 $\pm$
		1.60**	3.06**	6.73**	9.20@

Table No.1

#### Determination of Depression behavior

Data are expressed as the Mean  $\pm$ SD (n=06), where @ p< 0.01, compared to control group, \*\* P < 0.01, compared to negative control group

#### Determination of oxidative stress parameters in blood

##### Sample preparation

Suspension of RBC (red blood cells, 5%) was prepared by adding phosphate buffer saline (8 ml) to packed cells. 0.5 ml of 5% RBC was mixed with 5 ml of distilled water, shaken for 5 min. then kept at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  for 5min. Subsequently, 0.4ml of 3:5 chloroform ethanol mixtures was added, shaken vigorously to precipitate hemoglobin, and then 0.15 ml of distilled water was added. The mixture was centrifuged to get a clear erythrocyte lysate.

##### Determination of LPO

LPO (lipid peroxidation) was determined on the basis of the molar extinction coefficient of MDA (1.56/105) and expressed in terms of nanomoles of MDA/gHb. [10]

Sr. No.	Groups	21 days				84 days			
		LPO (nMMDA/g hb)	GSH ( $\mu$ M/mg protein)	CAT (U/mg protein)	SOD (Unit/mg protein)	LPO (nMMDA/g hb)	GSH ( $\mu$ M/mg protein)	CAT (U/mg protein)	SOD (Unit/mg protein)
1	Group-I	3.15 $\pm$ 0.43	8.58 $\pm$ 0.49	251.16 $\pm$ 0.75	49.23 $\pm$ 0.53	3.74 $\pm$ 0.08	8.82 $\pm$ 0.10	251.56 $\pm$ 0.87	50.05 $\pm$ 0.48
2	Group-II	5.81 $\pm$ 0.07@	5.66 $\pm$ 0.40@	220.16 $\pm$ 0.75@	30.36 $\pm$ 1.02@	7.87 $\pm$ 0.37@£	4.67 $\pm$ 0.16@£	206.30 $\pm$ 2.40@£	21.75 $\pm$ 0.66@£
3	Group-III	5.46 $\pm$ 0.08*	6.21 $\pm$ 0.20*	221.33 $\pm$ 0.51*	32.00 $\pm$ 1.09*	7.28 $\pm$ 0.23@£	5.2 $\pm$ 0.16	217.61 $\pm$ 1.74@£	27.93 $\pm$ 0.97@£
4	Group-IV	4.03 $\pm$ 0.08**	6.85 $\pm$ 0.13**	238.66 $\pm$ 0.51**	38.83 $\pm$ 1.16**	5.81 $\pm$ 0.38@£	5.85 $\pm$ 0.15	227.66 $\pm$ 2.12@£	41.33 $\pm$ 1.63@£

**Table 2: Determination of oxidative stress parameter**Data are expressed as the Mean  $\pm$ SD (n=06), where

@ p&lt;0.01, compared to control group, \*\* P &lt; 0.01, compared to negative control group

£ p&lt;0.01, Compared to 21 days reading

Sr.No.	Groups	SGOT (IU/L)	SGPT (IU/L)	SGOT (IU/L)	SGPT (IU/L)
1	Group I	16.83 $\pm$ 0.75	27.33 $\pm$ 0.81	16.16 $\pm$ 0.75	27.33 $\pm$ 0.51
2	Group II	17.33 $\pm$ 0.51 <sup>NS</sup>	26.83 $\pm$ 0.75 <sup>NS</sup>	18.83 $\pm$ 0.40@	32.00 $\pm$ 1.78@
3	Group III	17.16 $\pm$ 0.40 <sup>NS</sup>	26.83 $\pm$ 0.75 <sup>NS</sup>	17.00 $\pm$ 0.63**	30.50 $\pm$ 0.54**
4	Group IV	16.50 $\pm$ 0.54 <sup>NS</sup>	26.33 $\pm$ 0.51 <sup>NS</sup>	16.66 $\pm$ 0.81**	29.66 $\pm$ 0.81**

**Table 3: Determination of Biochemical Parameters**Data are expressed as the Mean  $\pm$ SD (n=06), where

@ p&lt;0.01, compared to control group, \*\* P &lt; 0.01, NS p&gt;0.05 compared to control group

ns p&gt;0.05 compared to negative control group

**Determination of CAT**

The activity of CAT enzyme was determined in the erythrocyte lysate as the decrease in absorbance was measured spectrophotometrically at 240 nm for 1 minute. [11]

**Determination of SOD**

The activity of SOD was determined in the erythrocyte lysate by monitoring spectrophotometrically the increase in the absorbance at 420 nm for 3 minutes. [12].

**Determination of GSH**

Blood GSH (reduced glutathione) was measured by addition of 0.2 ml of whole blood to 1.8 ml of distilled water followed by 3.0 ml of precipitating mixture. It was

centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 5 minutes and 1 ml of supernatant was added to 1.5 ml of phosphate solution, followed by addition of 0.5 ml of DTNB {Dithionitrobenzoic acid; 5, 5'-Dithiobis (2-nitrobenzoic acid)} reagent. The absorbance was measured at 412 nm. [13]

**Determination of SGOT and SGPT**

The measurement of transaminase levels in serum by Ambica diagnostic kit studied. The kit utilize the colorimetric procedure of Reitman and Frankel in which the oxaloacetate and/or pyruvate formed in either the GOT or GPT reaction is combined with 2, 4-

nitrophenylhydrazine to yield a brown-coloured hydrazone which is measured at 505 nm.[14]

#### Statistical analysis:

Values are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD (n=6). Statistical significance was determined by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.  $P < 0.01$  and  $P < 0.05$  were considered statistically significant when compared with Negative control.

### 3. RESULTS

The level of depression is displayed in table no.1. There was significant increase in the ( $p < 0.01$ ) immobility time when subjected to Forced swim test and Tail suspension test of group II when compare to group I which signifies that there was increase in the level of depression in socially isolated rat. Even the time of immobility significantly increased ( $p < 0.01$ ) after social isolation of 84 days compared to 21 days. There was significant decrease in immobility time in group III and group IV compared to group II. As shown in Table No. 2. There was increase in the levels of Oxidative stress markers in the socially isolated rats. There were significant increase ( $p < 0.01$ ) in the level of LPO and Decrease in the level of GSH, CAT and SOD in socially isolated rats (isolated for 21 and 84 days) compare to normal rats. There were significant alteration ( $p < 0.01$ ) in the levels of oxidative stress markers in socially isolated rat of 84 days compare to 21 days of social isolation. In group III and group IV rats there were decrease in the levels of LPO and increase in the level of GSH, CAT and SOD compare to Group II rat (isolated for 21 and 84 days).

The change in the biochemical parameters like SGOT, SGPT level in socially isolated rats were observed of 84 days (Table No. 3). On 21 days of social isolation there was no significant changes in the level of SGOT and SGPT compare to Group I but after 84 days of social isolation there was significant ( $p < 0.01$ ) increase in the level of SGOT and SGPT level of group II compare to Group I. After 84 days of social isolation Group III and Group IV shows significant ( $p < 0.001$ ) decrease in the levels of SGOT and SGPT.

### 4. DISCUSSION

The present findings show that short and long term social isolation is associated with significant enhancement of Depression as measured in the forced swim test and tail suspension test. This behaviour state may contribute for generation of oxidative stress, which was confirmed by determining its markers i.e. lipid peroxidation, CAT, SOD and GSH. The present study indicates that long term social isolation for 84 days (i.e. 12 weeks) significantly altered oxidative stress markers as compared to short term social isolation in liver. Increased levels of SGOT and SGPT demonstrated liver damaged in rats subjected to

long term social isolation compared to short term social isolation. The raised levels of these enzymes in depression might be as the result of cortisol induced gluconeogenesis in the liver. During stressful condition there might be altered membrane permeability which contributes to release of these transaminases.

In conclusion, long term social isolation induced increase in SGOT, SGPT are mediated through the increased generation of free radicals. Thus, the present study also confirms the alteration of oxidant and antioxidant balance during altered behavior.

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