Comparative studies on amelioration of adverse effects of danofloxacin by using alpha-lipoic acid or ursodeoxycholic acid in rats Hesham, S. Taha^{*}; Riham, M. Raafat^{*} and Dardiri M.^{**}

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Abstract

Danofloxacin is a fluoroquinolone (FQ) antibacterial agent. The effect of danofloxacin on hepatic, renal tissues, blood biochemical parameters in rats and the effect of alpha lipoic acid (ALA) and ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) in ameliorating the likely deleterious effects were assessed in this study. Rats were divided into four groups (control, danofloxacin 30 mg/kg b.wt., danofloxacin 30 mg/kg b.wt.+ ALA 25 mg/kg b.wt., danofloxacin 30 mg/kg b.wt + UDCA 20mg/kg b.wt). Danofloxacin was injected intraperitoneally while ALA and UDCA was given orally. All treatments were given once daily for two weeks. Sera from all groups were collected and Liver functions (AST and ALT), kidney function (urea and creatinine), antioxidant parameters (glutathione (GSH) and lipid peroxidation marker (malondialdehyde (MDA) were measured in the sera of all groups. Postmortem examination was performed on sacrificed rats and histopathological studies for liver and kidney were performed. Treatment of animals with danofloxacin caused significantly elevated activities of serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), urea, creatinine as well as MDA and decrease in GSH activity. Danofloxacin treated group showed histopathological changes such as diffuse vacuolar degeneration in the hepatocytes, severe vacuolar degeneration of the epithelial linings of some distal tubules with peritubular vascular dilatation and hemorrhage in kidney. All of these negative effects were significantly ameliorated by combination of ALA or UDCA with danofloxacin. Our findings suggest that Salmonella and E. coli organisms are still sensitive to danofloxacin with MIC₉₀ of 0.049 µg/mL and 0.195 ug/ml respectively. It could be concluded that danofloxacin has adverse effect against liver and kidney function and these functions should be monitored, and the dose should be adjusted during danofloxacin therapy. Using of UDCA and ALA can reduce this negative effects which might be related to its antioxidant properties.

Keywords: Danofloxacin, alpha-lipoic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, rats.

Introduction

Fluoroquinolones are most widely used today for the treatment of bacterial infections belongs to urinary tract or respiratory tract in human and animals. Whereas fluoroquinolones have been banned in some countries for use in poultry production due to development of FQresistant isolates, the use of these antimicrobials in poultry husbandry is still allowed in other countries with some restrictions. Resistance may develop by the micro-organisms being treated for example, through correct dosage or over prescription. The use of FQ in food producing animals has led to the emergence of FQ - resistant *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli* with reduced susceptibility to fluoroquinolones with failure of human treatment. **(WHO, 1998)**.

Fluoroquinolones contain fluoride, which allows them to penetrate into sensitive tissues like brain and central nervous system, Fluoride is a known neurotoxic agent (Mandell and Tillotson, 2002). It carries severe side effects that can harm central nervous system, musculoskeletal, visual, renal system and most frequently linked to liver injury (Hsiao *et al.*, 2010) and nephrotoxicity (Matsubara *et al.*, 2016).

Ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, levofloxacin, ofloxacin, trovafloxacin, enoxacin, sparfloxacin, grepafloxacin, gatifloxacin, clinafloxacin and moxifloxacin were conducted to reduce the incidence and features of fluoroquinolone nephrotoxicity, but the use of ciprofloxacin appears to increase the risk of the renal injury and this may be due to its longer and more widespread use (Lomaestro, 2000).

Danofloxacin is a synthetic fluoroquinolone antibacterial drug, developed for use in veterinary medicine. It has a rapid bactericidal activity against a broad range of pathogens responsible for a number of disease syndromes of economic importance in the commercial rearing livestock (Norcia et al., 1999). The spectrum of activity of danofloxacin is wide and includes most gram-negative bacteria and some gram-positive bacteria, mycoplasmas, and intracellular pathogens, such as Brucella and Chlamydia species; but it has only limited activity against anaerobic organisms (Hannan et al., 1997). It is administered in the drinking water to broiler chickens, calves, beef, cattle and non-lactating dairy cattle by intramuscular injection, for treatment of respiratory disease (EMA, 1997).

Alpha lipoic acid (ALA) contains two sulfhydryl groups which may exist in either oxidized or reduced states. The reduced form is called dihydrolipoic acid (DHLA) while oxidized form is usually referred as lipoic acid (Nikolić *et al.*, 2014). Lipoic acid (LA) in many tissues is rapidly converted to its redox couple, dihydrolipoic acid (DHLA). LA and DHLA have antioxidant properties are reflected by their direct ability to quench free radicals and indirect ability to recirculate cellular antioxidants (Aly *et al.*, 2009). LA is a lipophilic antioxidant and an essential cofactor for mitochondrial respiratory enzymes. Initially, LA was tentatively regarded as a vitamin, found in spinach, broccoli, tomato, garden pea, rice bran and animal tissues (Packer *et al.*, 2001).

ALA act as a coenzyme in pyruvate dehydrogenase and alpha-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase mitochondrial reactions, leading to the production of cellular energy (ATP). It is well known that ALA and its reduced form, dihydrolipoic acid reduce oxidative stress by scavenging a number of free radicals in both membrane and aqueous domains by preventing membrane lipid peroxidation and protein damage through the redox regeneration of other antioxidants such as vitamins C and E, and by increasing intracellular glutathione (**Evans and Goldfine**, **2000**).

ALA is a naturally occurring antioxidant and plays a fundamental role in metabolism. It has been shown that it affects the cellular processes, alters redox status of cells, and interacts with thiols and other antioxidants (Packer *et al.*, 2001).

It exhibited free radical scavenging activities and hepatoprotection properties against Carbon Tetrachloride-Induced Liver injury (**Mohamed** *et al.*, 2014).

The liver damage induced by Acetaminophen was significantly ameliorated by α -lipoic acid and α -Tocopherol through amelioration of the mitochondrial oxidative stress in acetaminophen challenged rats (**Sudheesh** *et al.*, 2013). Lipoic acid has antimicrobial activity against *Cronobacter sakazakii*, a gram-negative bacterium, cause bacteremia, necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and infant meningitis (Nikolić *et al.*, 2014).

Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) is a naturally occurring tertiary dihydroxy hydrophilic bile acid used in the treatment of primary biliary cirrhosis. (**Poupon** *et al.*, **1990**). Food and drug administration approved UDCA for cholesterol gall stone dissolution, and primary biliary cirrhosis. UDCA is reported to increase bile flow, change the hydrophobicity index of the bile acid pool and has immune-suppressive effects. (Bachrach and Hofmann, 1982).

UDCA a well-established therapy is used to treat liver dysfunction associated with various diseases, including cholestatic diseases and chronic active hepatitis (Kotb, 2008). El-Sherbiny *et al.* (2009) found that ursodeoxycholic acid play a role in prevention of hepatotoxicity caused by amoxicillin-clavulanic acid in rats.

Ursodeoxycholic acid has effect against Helicobacter pylori with minimum inhibitory concentration of 400-800 μ g /ml (Itoh *et al.*, 1999).

The beneficial effect of ursodeoxycholic acid in primary biliary cirrhosis is mediated in part by immunosuppression .It suppressed the production of IgM, IgG and IgA. Furthermore, ursodeoxycholic acid suppressed interleukin-2 and interleukin-4 production (Yoshikawa et al., 1992).

However, no information is available about the adverse effect of danofloxacin on liver and kidney and the role of lipoic acid or ursodeoxycholic acid in ameliorating this adverse effect if found. So, the present work has been designed to investigate the effect of danofloxacin on liver and kidney function and to evaluate the potential role of UDCA and ALA in prevention of hepatotoxic effect, nephrotoxicity and biochemical alterations that are induced by danofloxacin in rats.

Materials and Methods Animals

Adult female rats weighing 250-350 g were used. Rats were kept in plastic cages and maintained at $22 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C for one week before the start of the experiment. A standard diet and tap water were provided *ad libitum*.

Drugs and chemicals

Danocin (Danofloxacin 2.5%, injectable solution, was obtained from Adwia Co., Egypt).

Ursochol (Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA), 250 mg /capsule), was obtained from Medical Union Pharma (MUP), Egypt and was dissolved in 1% Tween 80 **(Khaled** *et al.*, **2014)**.

Thiotacid (Alpha-lipoic acid, ALA), 300mg/ tablet) was obtained from Eva Pharma for Pharmaceuticals and Appliances and was dissolved in dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO) (Yasser *et al.*, 2015).

Experimental design

Forty rats were randomly divided into four groups, each group consisting of ten rats each:

Group I: (Control group): Physiologic saline (0.09% NaCl) solution was administered intraperitoneal (I/P) in a single dose of 2.5 mg/ kg b.wt. for two weeks.

Group II: received danofloxacin (30 mg/kg b.wt.) by intraperitoneal (I/P) route once daily-for two weeks (**Dogan** *et al.*, **2017**).

Group III: received both Danofloxacin (30 mg/kg b.wt. IP) and ALA 25mg/kgb.wt., by oral gavage) once daily for two weeks

Group IV: received both Danofloxacin (30 mg/kg b.wt. IP) and UDCA (20mg/kg b.wt., by oral gavage) once daily for two weeks.

The experiment is designed according to (Ihcène *et al.*, 2014 and Gamal *et al.*, 2009). There are no independent groups for ALA or UDCA where it has been proven that their results, whether histopathologIcal analysis or biochemical analysis, such as the control group (Khaled *et al.*, 2014 and Mohamed *et al.*, 2014)

At the end of the experiment, blood samples were collected from the retro-orbital plexus and used for serum separation. Sera were used to determine ALT, AST, urea and creatinine levels. Immediately after blood collection, the animals were sacrificed by cervical dislocation. The liver and kidney of each rat was promptly removed and processed for histopathological studies.

Assays to determine the antimicrobial activity (Agar well diffusion method)

MacConkey agar and salmonella shigella agar plates were inoculated with the bacterial suspensions (*E. coli* and *Salmonella typhimurium* respectively) using different concentration of danofloxacin (between 100 μ g/mL and 0.049).

The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours and the diameters of inhibition zones were measured using a caliper .Each assay was carried out in triplicate. (Perez *et al.*, 1990).

Determination of minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and, minimal bactericidal concentrations (MBC) against *E. coli* and *Salmonella*

MIC in MacConkey broth were determined by the broth dilution method according to CLSI (Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 2008) against *E. coli* and *Salmonella* T. at concentrations between 100μ g/mL and 0.049μ g/mL. For determination the MBC, all the tubes showing no bacterial growth in the MIC test were subculture. A standard loopful from each tube was inoculated on MacConkey agar and salmonella shigella agar plate. The plates were incubated at 35°C for 18 hours. The lowest concentration with no visible growth was defined as the MBC, indicating 99.5% killing of the original inoculum (Amita *et al.*, 2013).

Biochemical Analysis

Alanine aminotransferase (ALT), Aspartate aminotransferase (AST), urea and creatinine levels were deterimed using Spectrum kits (Manufacturer: Spectrum Diagnostics/ Egypt). Malondialdehyde (MDA) was determined according to (Ohkawa *et al.*, 1979) and glutathione (GSH) was assayed according to (Tamura *et al.*, 1982).

Histopathological studies:

The animals were sacrificed by cervical dislocation at the end of the experiment specified time (two weeks) and specimens of livers and kidneys of each group were removed and fixed in 10% buffered neutral formalin solution. Tissue specimens were processed and embedded in paraffin, cut in sections of 4-5 nm thickness on microtome, stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) and examined microscopically for the evaluation of histopathological changes (Bancroft and Layton, 2012).

Statistical analysis:

In this study, the values were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation. The significance of the difference between each value presented by various groups was evaluated by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and values with P < 0.05 were considered as statistically significant (**Kim**, 2014).

Results and Discussion

The presence of Fluoroquinolones-resistant isolates should be routinely screened to preserve the efficacy of these important antimicrobial agents.

Antibiotic resistance in *E. coli* is of particular concern because it is the most common Gramnegative pathogen in humans and animals. **Vanni** *et al.* (2014) reported that 24.2% of *E. coli* isolates were resistant to all tested Fluoro-quinolones.

Therefore, Two methods are used to measure the activity of danofloxacin against the *E. coli* and Salmonella T., broth dilution method and agar dilution method. The bacteria are susceptible to danofloxacin with zones of inhibition ranging from 15.33 to 38.17 mm for *E. coli* and 11.33 to 37.68 mm for Salmonella T., so *E. coli* and *Salmonella T.* showed concentration-dependent susceptibility towards danofloxacin. The degree of susceptibility varied depends on the concentration of drug. (tables 1 and 2).

The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of danofloxacin that prevented growth of 90% of *E. coli* and *Salmonella T.* were 0.195 μ g/mL and 0.049 μ g/ml and the MBC was 0.0.39 μ g/

mL and 0.195 μ g/ml respectively. The value may be close to that reported by (**Dirk** et al. **1992**) against *E. coli* (MIC₉₀ was 0.25 μ g /ml) and against Salmonella (MIC with a value of 0.03 μ g/ml, (**Xia** *et al.*, **2018**).

European committee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (EUCAST) currently provides only a susceptible category for Fluoroquinolone for Enterobacteriaceae with MIC ranged between $\leq 0.25 - 1.0 \ \mu g/ml$. (EUCAST, 2017), Accordingly *E. coli* and *Salmonella* showed a high degree of susceptibility to danofloxacin.

Fluoroquinolones side effects include acute liver toxicity and acute kidney failure. However, an increasing number of evidence indicates that it has risk of elevation of the liver enzyme, cholestatic abnormalities and liver injury (Carrascosa *et al.*, 2009 and Airey and Koller, 2003).

The serum AST, ALT, urea and creatinine are the most sensitive biochemical markers employed in the diagnosis of hepatic and renal dysfunction. (Nnodim *et al.*, 2010).

On microscopic examination of the liver and kidney tissues of the control animals group revealed a normal architecture (Fig. 1 and $2_{a,b}$).

Data of serum samples obtained from rats received danofloxacin with or without of ursodeoxycholic acid or Alpha-lipoic acid were depicted in (tables 3,4).

In this study, we found significant elevation of serum ALT and AST, urea and creatinine activity in rats treated with danofloxacin which is similar to the results found in previous studies for Fluoroquinolones (Wolfson and Hooper, 1991). Danofloxacin treated rats showed a significant increase in plasma AST, ALT, by 42.46% and 33.18%, respectively compared with control group and this percentage was decreased by addition of ALA to 14.02%, 24.42% and by addition of UDCA to 0.04% and 10.12%.

Similar results have been reported by (Zulfigar et al., 2017) who found that the Fluorinated quinolones, including ciprofloxacin, are metabolized in the liver and excreted by the kidneys and cause a 1% to 3% selfresolving transient elevation in liver enzymes in young and adult. Also Enrofloxacin caused an increase of ALT, AST and Alkaline Phosphatase (Neer, 1988). ciprofloxacin induces hepatotoxicity, cholestatic jaundice, elevated level of total bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, aspartate aminotransferase and prolonged prothrombin time (Hirch and Lundquist, 2009).

Administration of different doses (5, 10, 20 mg/kg b.wt.) of levofloxacin significantly increased the plasma activities of ALT and AST by 37%, and 48% respectively, when compared to the control group (Ebenezer *et al.*, 2015) and this elevation due to necrosis of hepatocytes (Pratt and Kaplan, 2000). in addition, TRASË *et al.* (2001) found that Enrofloxacin caused a reversible increase in serum AST and indirect Bilirubin concentrations in dogs.

Urea is the first acute renal marker which increases when the kidney suffers any kind of injury. Otherwise, creatinine is the most trustable of them (**Borges** *et al.* 2008).

Our data showed a significant increase in plasma urea and creatinine levels in Group II by 44.39%, and 30.23% respectively compared with control group and then these percentages decreased to 14.31% and 13.95% in group III and decreased to 10.27% and 4.65% in group IV.

In previous study, oral ciprofloxacin therapy may lead to acute renal failure secondary to tubulointerstitial nephritis characterized by an increased creatinine to blood urea nitrogen (BUN) ratio (Hootkins *et al.*, 1989). Elevation of the plasma levels of creatinine and urea by levofloxacin is an indication of abnormal renal function (**Mouton and Holder, 2006**).

Our results demonstrated that administration of danofloxacin resulted in markedly significant decrease in the level of hepatic GSH compared to those of control group while GSH level significantly increased by addition of ALA or UDCA compared to those of danofloxacin treated group.

MDA levels in liver tissue (a marker of lipid peroxidation) was significantly increased in danofloxacin treated group $(3.50 \pm 0.40 \text{ nmol/} \text{ml})$ compared to those of control group (2.83 $\pm 0.37 \text{ nmol/ml})$.

Similar observations were obtained by several authors following ciprofloxacin and levoflox-acin treatment (Rawi *et al.*, 2011). Elamaran *et al.* (2015) reported that enrofloxacin induced oxidative stress in broiler.

Talla and Veerareddy (2011) reported that ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin induce more reactive oxygen species that lead to cell damage than gatifloxacin. The formation of free radicals by ciprofloxacin in the microsomal system might provide an explanation to the mechanisms of adverse effects observed after administration of this drug (Xie *et al.*, 2003).

Lipoic acid is rapidly converted into its reduced form, dihydrolipoic acid (DHLA). Recent studies demonstrated that LA and dihydrolipoic acid can act as potent antioxidants (Ihcène *et al.*, 2014).

A combination of danofloxacin with ALA causes significant improvement in liver function and significant reduction in liver enzyme activities (ALT and AST) than danofloxacin treated group. These results were in agreement with a report showing that pretreatment of rats with 100 mg/kg ALA, 1h before acetaminophen administration inhibited the elevation induced by acetaminophen in the activities of SGOT, SGPT and SAP and in the level of serum total bilirubin (Ahmed et al., 2008)

Moreover, a significant decrease in urea and creatinine levels in danofloxacin + ALA compared to danofloxacin treated groups. These results came in accordance with the recorded data of (Rashwan and Anfenan, 2012) who, reported that, treatment with α -lipoic acid in cadmium intoxicated rats resulted in decrease in serum urea and creatinine concentrations compared to cadmium group.

The significant elevation in malondialdehyde (MDA) and lowering in GSH by danofloxacin was significantly ameliorated by combination of danofloxacin with ALA. Elamaran *et al.* (2015) found that treatment with alpha-lipoic acid (100 mg/kg b.w) significantly restored the antioxidant status in liver homogenates induced by Enrofloxacin in broilers.

ALA prevents cellular necrosis, this effect might be related to both its radical scavenging properties and indirect effect as a regulator of antioxidative systems. The protective role of ALA against hepatotoxicity and oxidative stress is well documented in a series of scientific reports (**Bae** *et al.*, 2014).

Previous studies had reported that lipoic acid showed significant protective effects against tissue damage induced by some xenobiotics like arsenic (Shila *et al.*, 2005), Bisphenol A (El-Beshbishy *et al.*, 2012) and Adriamycin (Prahalathan *et al.*, 2006).

Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) is one of the secondary bile acids. Combination of danofloxacin plus UDCA causes significant reduction in liver enzyme activities such as AST and ALT (62.17 ± 2.25 U/L, 22.63 ± 0.50 U/L) compared to group III (67.98 ± 1.58 U/L, 25.57 ± 0.89 U/L) and Group II (84.94 ± 2.62 U/L, 27.37 ± 1.51 U/L) respectively.

This injury induced finding was contrary to the results of previous study where in UDCA stabilizes the mitochondrial and plasma membranes of hepatocytes that protect them from various other injuries and it constitute an antiapoptotic action (**Sola** *et al* ., **2007**). This protective effect is probably due to its antioxidant action (**Lukivskaya** *et al.*, **2006**).

In addition, UDCA is an effective hepatoprotective agent against liver dysfunction caused by the broad spectrum antibiotic combination amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (El-Sherbiny *et al.*, 2009) and it protected mice from liver by isoniazid plus rifampicin (Chen *et al.*, 2011).

Khaled *et al.* (2014) found that UDCA has been reported to protect against ceftriaxone induced liver injury in rats and normalize the elevated hepatic MDA, and nitric oxide (NO) induced by ceftriaxone and it restored GSH levels in rats. The normalization of serum markers by UDCA suggests that it is able to protect the membrane integrity against ceftriaxone that induces leakage of marker enzymes into the circulation.

In the present work, a significant decrease in the level of urea and creatinine was observed in Group IV (danofloxacin + UDCA) compared to group II. Similar results have been reported in mice, showed that UDCA alleviated blood urea nitrogen (BUN), serum creatinine (SCr) and exerts renoprotective effects (Aili *et al.*, 2016).

Addition of UDCA to danofloxacin lead to decrease the elevated biochemical oxidative stress markers; hepatic MDA (2.78 ± 0.36 nmol/ml) and it restored GSH levels (4.93 ± 0.96 ug/ml) compared to danofloxacin treatment group (3.50 ± 0.40 nmol/ml, 2.87 0.31 ug/ml respectively).

This result is in agreement with that found in previous studies of UDCA that significantly increased the levels of GSH, thereby protecting hepatocytes against oxidative injury (Mitsuyoshi *et al.*, 1999).

El- Sherbiny *et al.* (2009) have reported that UDCA was able to normalize the elevated bio-

chemical oxidative stress markers, reactive oxygen species (ROS) production and restored GSH normal level. They found that UDCA has a hepatoprotective effect on liver dysfunction caused by Co-amoxyclav and this effect is attributed to its antioxidant properties and this could be clinically beneficial to reduce the hepatotoxic adverse effect of Co-amoxyclav.

Histopathological examination of the liver and kidney tissues in this study confirmed the biochemical results.

The control group showed normal hepatic tissue architecture, normal glomeruli and normal renal tubules (Fig. 1, $2_{a,b}$).

The group treated with danofloxacin alone showed diffuse ballooning degeneration of hepatocytes and dilatation of central veins as well as desquamation of the epithelial lining of some proximal tubules and severe vacuolar degeneration of the epithelial linings of some distal tubules with peritubular vascular dilatation and interstitial hemorrhage (Fig. $3,4_{a,b}$).

Similar observation by several authors following ciprofloxacin treatment were reported. **Nada (2012)**, **AL- Rikaby** *et al.* **(2016)**, **Elbe** *et al.* **(2016) and Taslider** *et al.* **(2016)** who found that ciprofloxacin has the potential to induce hepatotoxicity and nephrotoxicity effects in rats. They reported that ciprofloxacin treatment caused vacuolation of hepatocytes, dilatation of central vein and hepatocellular necrosis ,while the kidney tissues displayed vacuolation of tubular epithelium of cortical areas, dilatation of tubules and coagulative necrosis of renal tubular epithelium .

Moreover, **Ravikumar** *et al.* (2017) found similar histopathological changes in levofloxacin treated birds induced nephrotoxicity. They observed tubular epithelial cell degeneration, desquamation, congestion, hemorrhages, and necrosis along with infiltration of inflammatory cells in the interstitum.

Formation of free radicals by ciprofloxacin in the microsomal system might provide an explanation to the mechanisms of adverse effects observed after administration of drug in rats. The mechanism of radical formation by ciprofloxacin might be a result of metabolize this drug by cytochrome P450 and/or redox reaction (Nadia, 2006). Xie *et al.* (2003) reported that the preferential zone-3 distribution of hepatic damage, suggests a possible involvement of the cytochrome P450 enzyme. The enzyme activity is highest in zone-3, and it has been shown that ciprofloxacin suppresses relevant cytochromes P450 at the transcription level.

In our study, the group of animals treated with danofloxacin in combination with ALA, the liver showed a marked improvement of hepatocellular degeneration with restoration of liver tissue architecture and apparently normal hepatocytes with very mild ballooning degeneration still present in some few hepatocytes in comparison with the group treated with danofloxacin alone. The kidney tissue showed relatively restoration of normal appearance of epithelial lining of proximal convoluted tubules, apparently normal glomerulous and relatively normal distal convoluted tubules in group III (**Fig. 5,6**)

It has been found that ALA protects against gentamicin (Sandhya and Varalaskshmi, 1997), cisplatin (Somani *et al.*, 2000), chloroquine (Murugavel and Pari, 2004) and cyclosporine (Amudha *et al.*, 2006) induced nephrotoxicity in rats. Moreover, the protective role of ALA against hepatotoxicity and oxidative stress is well documented in a series of scientific reports (Bae *et al.*, 2014).

ALA produced its protective effect by preventing the increase in lipid peroxidation level and by increasing the inhibited activities of enzymatic antioxidants and decreased levels of nonenzymatic antioxidants (Morakinyo ET AL., 2012).

In the present work, liver from animals treated with danofloxacin plus UDCA showed also marked improvement of hepatic cell degeneration which restricted to few hepatocytes with mild ballooning degeneration. Moreover, the kidney tissues showed apparently normal proximal and distal tubules with presence of few necrotic tubular epithelial cells (the cells were swollen with deeply eosinophilic cytoplasm with karyopyknotic nuclei). (Fig. 7,8).

Our results agree with the findings of **Khaled** *et al.*, **2014** who found that UDCA showed mild hydropic degeneration in the periportal (peripheral) area and normal hepatocytes in the central lobular area compared to ceftriaxone which showed nearly complete lobular degeneration and the effect of UDCA might be related to its antioxidant properties.

UDCA Stabilizes the mitochondrial and plasma membranes of hepatocytes that protect them from various other injuries and it constitute on antiapoptoic action (Sola *et al.*, 2007). Abd-Elhamid *et al.* (2018) found that UDCA ameliorates gentamicin--induced kidney injury via inhibition of oxidative stress, inflammation and apoptosis.

Conclusion

Our results demonstrated that danofloxacin which is a fluorinated quinolone antibiotic can cause adverse side effects such as hepatotoxicity and nephrotoxicity in rats. ALA and UDCA have an ameliorating effect against these adverse reactions which were evidenced by improvement in biochemical measurements and histopathological changes and so it is useful for reducing and/or preventing danofloxacin induced liver and kidney damage. Therefore, it is necessary to monitor liver and kidney functions when giving danofloxacin for long periods or for high doses, if necessary, these acids (ALA and UDCA) can be used to protect the above organs from the side effect of the drugs. Danofloxacin still have a good activity against *E. coli* and *Salmonella typhimurium*.

Danofloxacin Conc (ug/ml)	Zone of diameter of inhibition (mm)		
	E. coli	Salmonella Typhimurium	
100	38.17 ± 0.28	37.68 ± 0.96	
50	36 .67 ±0.57	34.33 ± 0.57	
25	34.33± 0.58	32.33 ± 0.29	
12.5	31.80± 0.29	28.67 ± 0.29	
6.25	0 28.50± 0.5	26 .33 ± 0.57	
3.125	26.16± 0.28	24.16 ± 0.28	
1.563	21.9± 0.11	22.40 ± 0.69	
0.781	19.10 ± 0.36	19.46 ± 0.42	
0.39	17.17 ± 0.29	16.9 ± 0.36	
0.195	15.33± 028	15.43 ± 0.37	
0.097	ND	13.53 ± 0.46	
0.049	ND	11.33 ± 0.58	

Table (1). Antimicrobial activity (zone of inhibition) of danofloxacin against E. coli and Salmonella Typhi*murium* by agar well diffusion method (Mean \pm SD).

ND : not detected .

Table (2). Minimum inhibitory conc. (MIC) and Minimum bactericidal conc.(MBCs) (ug / ml) for danofloxacin against E.coli and Salmonella Typhimurium.

Organism	MIC	MBCs
E. coli	0.195	0.39
Salmonella Typhimurium	0.049	0.195

Table (3). Effect of danofloxacin (30 mg/kg b.wt.) with or without of ursodeoxycholic acid (20mg/kg b.wt) or Alpha-lipoic acid (25mg/kg b.wt) on some serum biochemical parameters in rats (mean \pm SD).

Parameters	AST	ALT	Urea	creatinine
Groups	(U/L)	(U/L)	mg/dl	mg/dl
Group I (Control)	59.62 ± 2.82	20.55 ± 0.87	22.57 ± 0.98	0.43 ± 0.06
Group II	84.94 ± 2.62^{a}	27.37 ± 1.51^{a}	32.59 ± 0.45^{a}	0.56 ± 0.09^{a}
(danofloxacin)	(42.46%) ^d	(33.18 %) ^d	(44.39 %) ^d	(30.23%) ^d
Group III	67.98 ± 1.58^{ab}	25.57 ± 0.89^{ab} (24.42%) ^d	25.80 ± 1.09^{ab}	0.49 ± 0.11
(Danofloxacin+ ALA)	(14.02 %) ^d		(14.31%) ^d	(13.95%) ^d
Group IV (Danofloxacin + UDCA)	62.17 ± 2.25^{bc} $(0.04 \%)^{d}$	$22.63 \pm 0.50^{\text{ abc}}$ (10.12%) ^d	24.89 ± 1.18^{ab} (10.27%) ^d	0.45 ± 0.07^{b} (4.65%) ^d

^asignificantly different from the control group at p< 0.05 $^{\rm b}$ significantly different from danofloxacin group at p< 0.05

° significantly different from Danofloxacin+ ALA group at p< 0.05

^d The percentage increase compared to the control group.

Table (4). Mean values of antioxidive and lipid peroxidation marker of rats given danofloxacin (30 mg/kg b.wt.) with or without of ursodeoxycholic acid (20mg/kg b.wt) or Alpha-lipoic acid (25mg/kg b.wt.) (mean \pm SD)..

Groups	GSH ug/ml	MDA nmol/ml
Group I (Control)	3.86 ± 0.67	2.83±0.37
Group II	2.87± 0.31 ^a	3.50±0.40 ^a
(danofloxacin)	25.64 % ^e	23.67% ^d
Group III	4.79±0.61 ^b	2.79±0.33 ^b
(Danofloxacin+ ALA)	24.09 % ^d	1.41 % ^e
Group IV	4.93±0.96 ^{a b}	2.78±0.36 ^b
(Danofloxacin + UDCA)	27.72 % ^d	1.76 % ^e

^a significantly different from the control group at p < 0.05

^b significantly different from danofloxacin group at p< 0.05^c significantly different from Danofloxacin+ ALA group at p< 0.05

^d The percentage increase compared to the control group.



Figure (1). Liver of a rat of control group showing the normal hepatic tissue architecture with normal hepatocytes (H&E, X 200)



Figure (2a). Kidney of a rat of control group showing normal structure of glomeruli (black arrow), normal proximal convoluted tubules (blue arrow) (H&E, X 200)



Figure (2b) Kidney of a rat of control group showing normal distal renal tubules (arrow), (H&E, X 400)



Figure (3). liver of a rat treated with danofloxacin showing diffuse ballooning degeneration of hepatocytes (black arrow) together with dilated blood vessel (blue arrow) (H&E, X 400)



Figure (4a). kidney of a rat treated with danofloxacin showing vacuolar degeneration of the epithelial linings of distal tubules (arrow) (H&E, X 400)



Figure (4b). kidney of a rat treated with danofloxacin showing degeneration of the epithelial lining of proximal convoluted tubules (black arrow), desquamation of tubular epithelial cells (yellow arrow), and interstitial hemorrhages (blue arrows) (H&E, X 400)



Figure (5). Liver of a rat treated with danofloxacin plus alpha- lipolic acid showing restoration of liver tissue architecture and apparently normal hepatocytes (black arrow) with very few ballooning degeneration in some hepatocytes (green arrow) (H&E, X 400)



Figure (6). kidney of a rat treated with danofloxacinplus alpha- lipolic acid showing relatively restoration of normal appearance of epithelial lining of proximal convoluted tubules (black arrow), apparently normal glomerulous (yellow arrow), and relatively normal distal convoluted tubules (blue arrows) (H&E, X 400)



Figure (7). Liver of a rat treated with danofloxacin plus ursodeoxycholic acid showing normal hepatic architecture (black arrow) with presence of few ballooning degeneration in some hepatocytes (blue arrow) (H&E, X 200)



Figure (8).Kidney of a rat treated with danofloxacin plus ursodeoxycholic acid showing apparently normal renal tubules (yellow arrow) with presence of few necrotic tubular epithelial cells (the cells were swollen with deeply eosinophilic cytoplasm with karyopyknotic nuclei) (blue arrow) (H&E, X 200)

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