



Experimentally Histological Assessment for the Effect of Resveratrol in the Liver of Mice

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Resveratrol a major Polyphenolic compound is a non-flavonoid stilbene, was isolated and purified as a first time in Iraq from the skin of black grape had grown in this country. Many studies confirmed the biological importance of this substance in different disorders, beside the protective properties specially towered the hepatic cells against free radicals and drugs toxic effects as histological level. In this study the purified resveratrol from Iraqi black grape was administered to groups of normal mice in three doses to investigate if there is any unwanted or harmful effects which may appear on the mice liver after fifteen days and thirty days administrated as intrapretoneal single dose a day Results showed that the extraction method estimated resveratrol in two stereo isomer mixture cis

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and trance forms. The different doses within two intervals affected the hepatocytes in different manner. The harmful properties of this substance appeared to be more potent in relation with dose and exposure time increasing. The study concluded that there must be an extensive studies that bridge the gap of available information with what is required regarding the Iraqi purified resveratrol as a safe therapeutic substance, not only for treating liver disorders, but in all its therapeutic purposes

Keywords: *Isomer mixture; black grape; antioxidants; microbial injury.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Polyphenols are big group in plant kingdom represented as secondary metabolites possess an important role in human nutrition as antioxidants. Resveratrol a trihydroxy-trans-stilbene; a major Polyphenolic compound is a non-flavonoid stilbene, phytoalexin plant component, which was first isolated from the white hellebore by Takaoka in 1940 and then isolated from *polygonum Cusprdatum* (Japanes – knot- weed) in 1963 by Nanomurad , also present in over 300 edible plants, in chiding grapes, berries, and peanuts, and other sources, that produced by plants as a defense mechanism against microbial injury, fungal infection or environmental stress [1]. It naturally has two different isomeric forms; trans and cis isomer. The trans form has been reported to be more important and stable than cis form, and, thus, more widely used in studies [2]. Many studies have emphasized the biological effects of this substance especially on circulating system as antithrombotic and cardiovascular protective agent [3], the anti-inflammatory [4], blood sugar reducing [5] and anticancer activities of resveratrol [6]. Other studies explain the mechanism for the antiinflammatory and protein-tyrosine Kinase inhibitory effects [7,8] while others explain its anticancer activities [9-11] Besides that, other researches demonstrated that Res. having another properties such as immune modulatory and in lymphoma disorders [12,13], antiproliferative [14], anti parasites and anti-Leishmanial [15,16].

In liver disorders various studies demonstrated and confirmed its anti-oxidative properties in different model of hepatitis resulting in obvious reduction in the hepatic fibrosis; on the other hand it could reduce hepatic stenosis [17-19].

The aim of this study was to investigate and evaluate the effect of resveratrol of purified Res. from black grape skin on hepatic tissue histologically and chemically.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Resveratrol Extraction and Purification from Black Grape Skin [13]

Black grape was pursued from local market. The outer skin was collected, washed and cleaned from any dust and impurities. A bout 500 g of fresh grape skin was macerated with ethyl acetate for 7 days in dark, cold place with gentle shaking occasionally. Then filtered and the filtrate was transferred to separator funnel with addition of equal volume from acidified distilled water with 2M HCl. After vigorous shaking two layers were separated, the upper ethyl acetate layer was taken to be washed with distilled water in order to get rid of any acid traces. The acetate layer was concentrated and a purification process was employed with aid of preparative silica gel chromatography technique (PTLC) using mobile phase: benzene: methanol: acetic acid, with ratio of (20:4:1). The purified resveratrol was subjected to the following analysis:

2.1.1 Analysis the extracted resveratrol compound by HPLC technique [20]

HPLC conditions for analysis of the standard and purified resveratrol of the extracted grape skin was shown in Table (1).

2.1.2 Biological study of the Extracted resveratrol on mice liver function

2.1.2.1 Resveratrol Dosage Preparation

To prepare the required doses that were used in work; a purified resveratrol was dissolved in 10% Ethanol according to Li-Xia et al. [21] and the resulting solution was sterilized through 0.22 µm Millipore filter to be intraperitoneally administered to normal Albino mice had been employed in current study

2.2 Study Design and Experimental Work

The effect of purified Resveratrol on liver tissue was investigated in the current study. The 32

Table 1. HPLC conditions for resveratrol analysis

Parameters	Conditions
Instrument	Shimadzu, Japan
Mobile phase	Acetonitrile: water (60:40 v/v)
Column	reversed-phase C18 column (250 x 4.6 mm i.d.; 5 µm).
Flow rate	0.6 ml / min
Injection Volume	10 µl
Concentration of sample	0.6 mg / 1 ml
Detection wavelength	UV-Vis at λ 307nm for Trans resveratrol & 280nm for cis resveratrol
Column Temperature	Room Temperature
Standard used	Trance Resveratrole (0.6 mg/ml) Cis Resveratrol (0.6 mg/ml)

Albino male mice (*Mus musculus*), with 23–27 g weight and 8–10-week-old at the start of experiments, were divided into four groups and kept in a separate plastic cage. Each group contained eight mice. Each group had received the following resveratrol dose according to Li-Xia et al. [21].

These groups included:

- Group one: Untreated mice group considered as control.
- Group two: treated with 0.25 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally, 4 mice treated for 15 days and 4 mice treated for 30 days.
- Group three: treated with 0.5 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally, 4 mice treated for 15 days and 4 mice treated for 30 days.
- Group four: treated with 1.0 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally, 4 mice treated for 15 days and 4 mice treated for 30 days.

Each dose was injected intraperitoneally as a single dose of 0.1 ml/mouse/day. Half of the mice from each group were treated for 15 days and another animals were treated in the same dose for 30 days. At the end of the experiment period, blood was pooled from animal's heart, and then mice were sacrificed by using inhalant chloroform as anesthetic for laboratory assessments (after 15 and 30 days).

2.2.1 Histopathological finding

The livers of the mice were taken from the dorsal mice back and stored in 10% formalin solution immediately, left overnight, and then embedded in paraffin blocks. The blocks were cut into 4-µm sections and stained with hematoxylin-eosin (H-E), using standard protocols [22]

The severity of hepatic injury in the sections was evaluated using a point-counting method on an ordinal scale according to the authenticated scale by Khalid [23] as follow:

grade (0), minimal or no evidence of injury;

grade (1), mild injury consisting of cytoplasmic vacuolation and focal nuclear pyknosis;

grade (2), moderate to severe injury with extensive nuclear pyknosis, cytoplasmic hyper-eosinophilia, and loss of intercellular borders;

grade (3), severe necrosis with disintegration of hepatic cords, hemorrhage, and neutrophil infiltration.

2.2.2 Statistical Analysis [24]

The experimental data were analyzed by SAS statistical software and expressed by mean ± standard deviation ($\bar{x} \pm s$). Statistical significance was defined as $P < 0.05$.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Resveratrol Extraction and Purification from Black Grape Skin

Results for the extraction and isolation of resveratrol substance from the skin of Iraqi black grape indicated that each 1g. Dried grape skin yields about 70µg pure crystals, which was purified with aid of preparative TLC technique as shown in Fig. (1).

As shown in Fig. (1) the Trans isomer was isolated then subsequent purified through PTLC technique to get a pure crystals subjected to different analysis listed in [25].

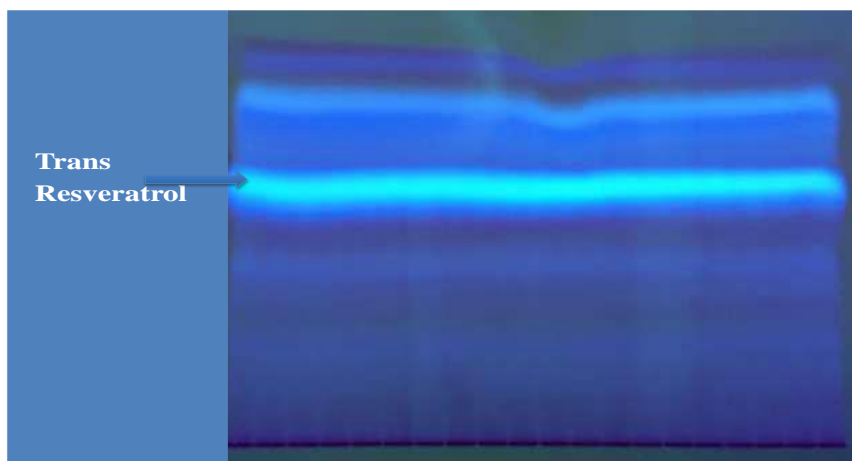


Fig. 1. PTLC Chromatogram for isolation and purification of the extracted resveratrol from black grape skin

3.2 Analysis the Extracted Resveratrol compound by HPLC technique

The HPLC for the resulted crystals was compared with standard retention time using same condition. Figs. (2,3) showed chromatogram for the standard and extracted resveratrol respectively.

3.3 Histological Study of the Extracted Resveratrol on mice Liver Function

The histological results investigated lesion of group two liver's mice, treated with Resveratrol

0.25 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally administrated for 15 days also showed congestion of blood vessels sinusoid, infiltration of multinuclear inflammatory cells in addition to vacuolar degeneration of hepatocyte around central vein,(Fig. 5), in comparison with the control group as shown in Fig. 4.

After 30 days for the group two liver's mice, treated with 0.25 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally of Resveratrol, sections elucidate lesions above in addition to coagulative necrosis of hepatocytes around central vein, perivascular infiltration of inflammatory cells in portal area (Figs. 6,7).

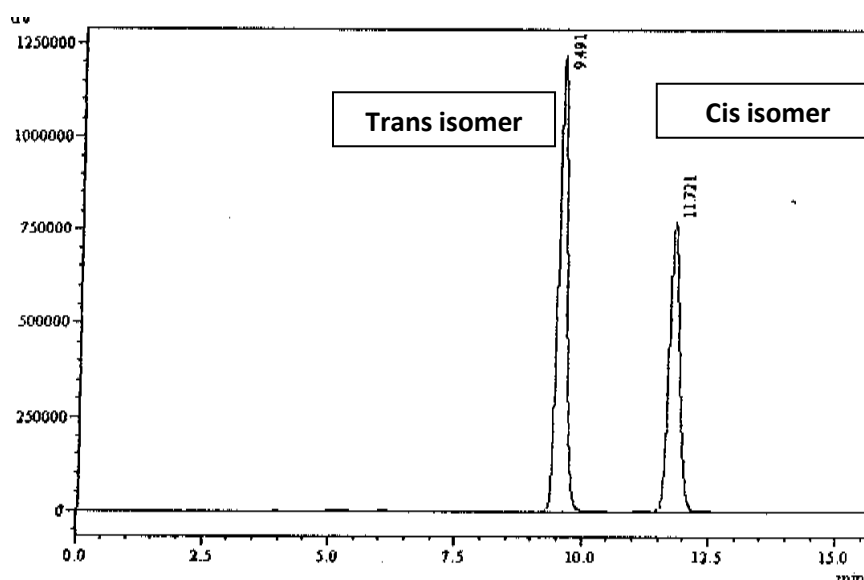


Fig. 2. HPLC Chromatogram for the Standard Resveratrol (Trans & Cis Isomers)

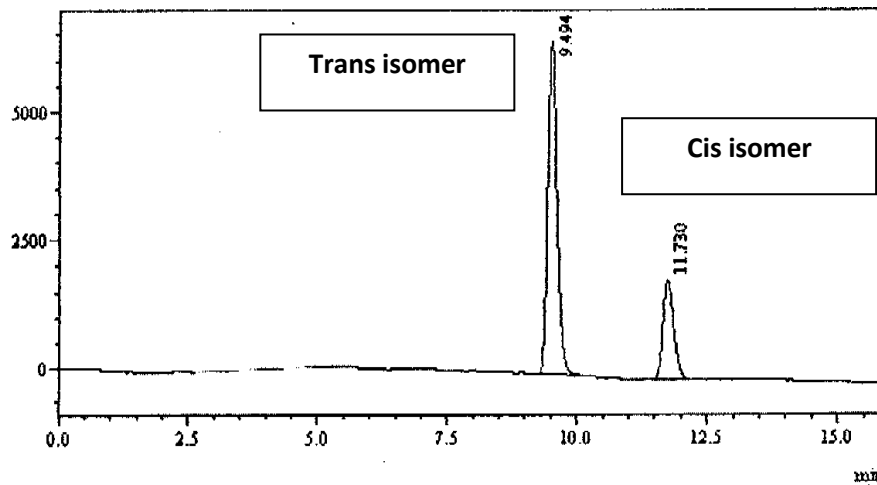
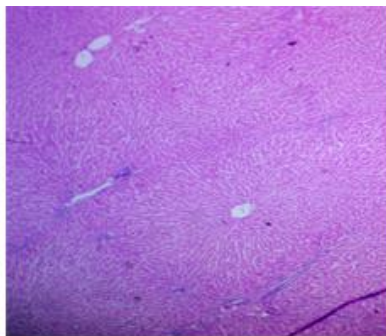


Fig. 3. HPLC Chromatogram for the Extracted Resveratrol (Trans& Cis Isomers)



Figure(4) Histological section of liver tissue (control) live cell columns ,blood sinusoids ,central vein (H& E) 10 X.

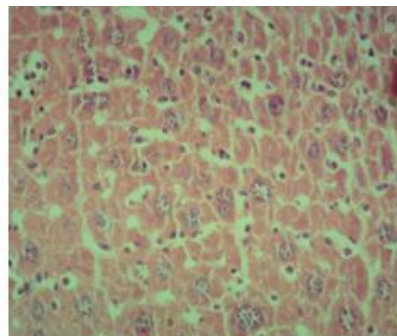
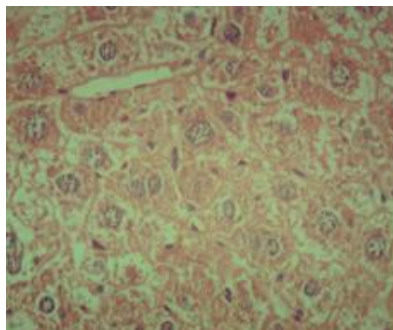


Figure (5) Histological section of group two liver's mice, treated with Resveratrol 0.25 mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally for 15 days ,showed liver tissue ,liver cells groups associated with few degeneration of liver cells . the blood sinusoids were dilated and appeared as network of blood channels engorged with multiple number of hypertrophic kupffer cells (H&E 40 X)



Figure(6) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 0.25mg /mouse /day intraperitoneally, for 30 days showed hypertrophy of the liver cells, cytoplasmic degeneration of certain cells with karyolysis of its nuclei ,blood sinusoids with kupffer cells .(.H&E 40 X)

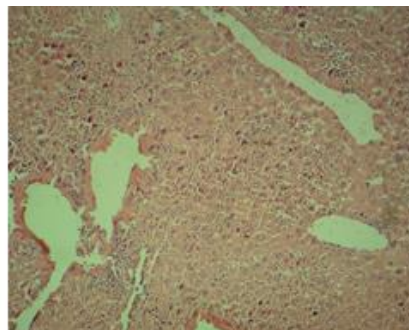


Figure (7) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 0.25mg / mouse/day intraperitoneally, after 30)days showed coagulative necrosis of hepatocytes around central vein central vein empty from blood , rupture of basement membrane of C.V., crowded liver cells to each other narrow blood sinusoid and coagulative necrosis(H&E 10 X)

For group three that represented mice treated with 0.5mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally, mice treated for 15 days, liver section showed coagulation necrosis of hepatocytes, extensive infiltration of chronic inflammatory cells, as shown in Fig. 8 while dilation of central vein and sinusoid, hemorrhage hypertrophic of kupffer cells were investigated for this group after 30 days, and the same results were seen as in Fig.

9, with more sever lesion was appeared shown in Fig. 10.

In group four treated with 1.0mg/ mouse /day intraperitoneally administrated Res. For 15 days, liver's mice section showed changes include crowded liver cells with inflammatory leukocytic infiltration around the branch of portal vein in the portal area Fig. 11

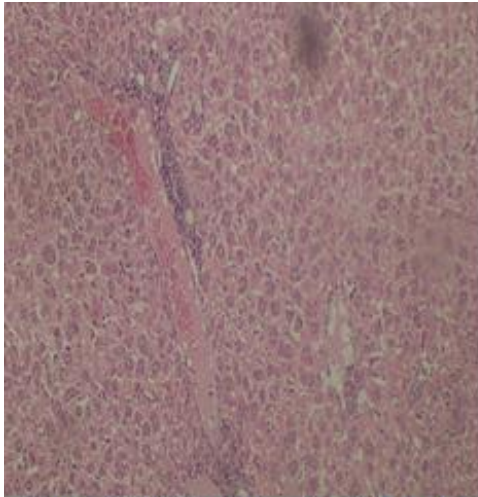


Figure (8) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 0.5mg /mouse /day intraperitoneally for 15 days showed liver tissue with hyperplasia of hepatocytes vascular leukocytes cuff. (H&E 10X)

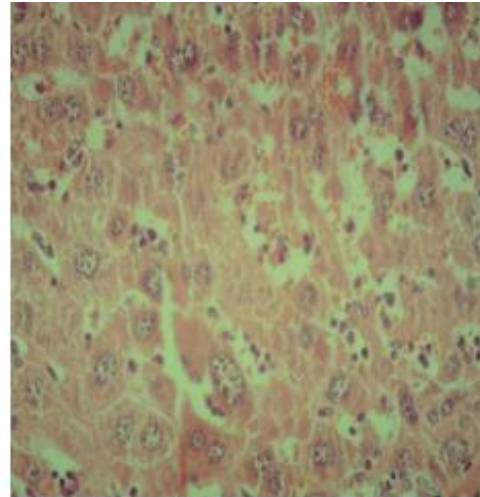


Figure (9) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 0.5mg / mouse/day intraperitoneally after 30 days showed degeneration of liver cells with karyolysis of its nuclei , dilation of blood sinusoid and hyperplasia of kupffer cells(H&E 40X)

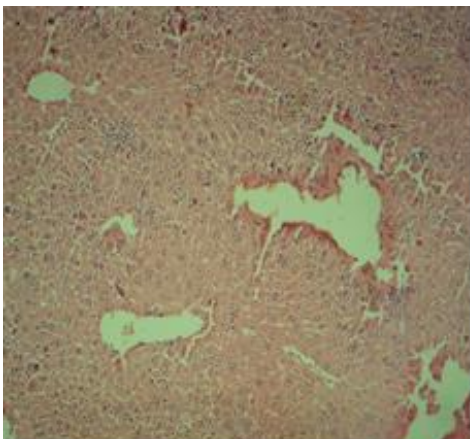


Figure (10) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 0.5mg /mouse /day intraperitoneally after 30 days showed liver tissue, distortion of basement membrane and endothelial desquamation in the lumen of C.V. (H&E 10 X)

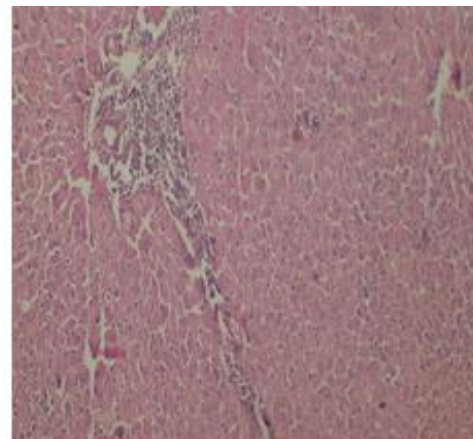


Figure (11) Hstological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 1mg/mouse/day intraperitoneally after 15 days showed liver tissue, crowded liver cells with inflammatory leukocyte infiltration around the branch of portal vein in the portal area (H&E 10X)

While after 30 days liver's mice section showed more sever changes include coagulation necrosis of hepatocytes in some area, vacuolar degeneration in others, dilation and congestion of sinusoids ,perivascular infiltration of mononuclear inflammatory cells in central vein and portal area , hyalinization in the wall of blood vessels Figs. 12-14.

4. DISCUSSION

Since resveratrol is a new therapeutic substance that attracts researchers to study all its therapeutic effects as well as its toxicity, and

since this substance is extracted for the first time in Iraq as a raw material purified from the skin of Iraqi black grapes as a rich source with this substance [25] in the form of a mixture of two stereoisomers, *cis* and *trans*, it has become necessary to conduct investigative studies on this natural substance in all aspects. This concept is regarded as the most important of which is investigating the therapeutic dose and the effect of different concentrations on the different organs of laboratory animals such as mice, as in-vivo study to identify the extent of its toxicity [26].

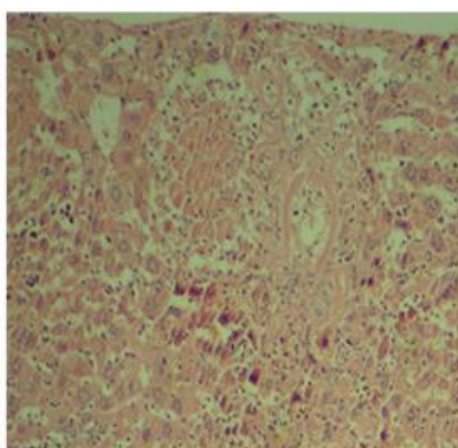
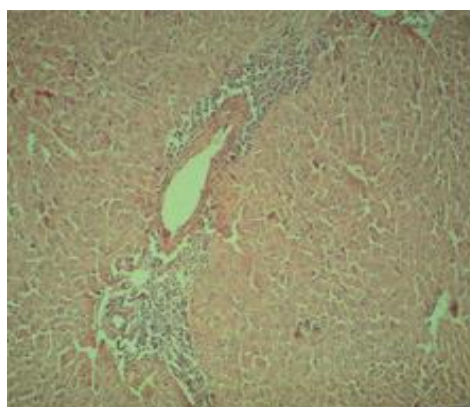
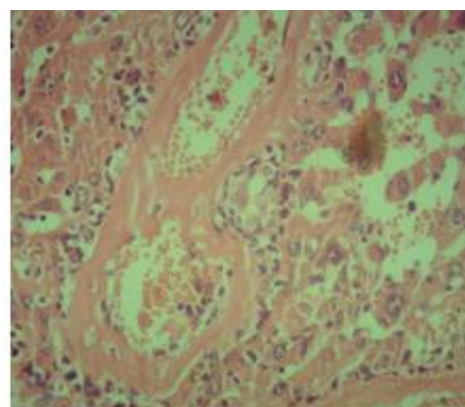


Figure (12) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 1mg /mouse/day intraperitoneally after 30 days showed distortion of liver cells showed presence of co-agulative necrosis, blood sinusoids with multiple kupffer cells, (H&E 40 X)



A



B

Figure(13- A & B) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 1mg /mouse/day intraperitoneally after (30) days showed in A: liver tissue with extensive liver cells degeneration, B: blood vessels and blood sinusoids with cellular debris and leukocyte infiltration, hyaline degeneration in the wall of blood vessels (H&E 40X)

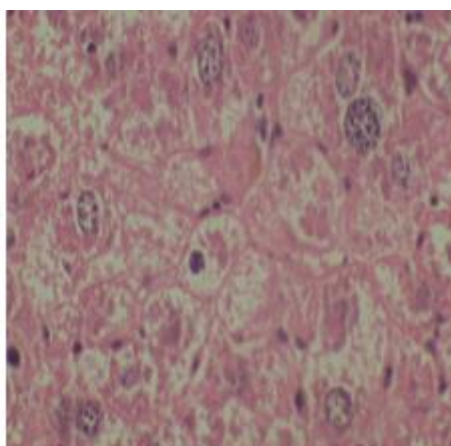


Figure (14) Histological section of mice liver treated with Resveratrol 1mg /mouse/day intraperitoneally after 30 days showed vacuolar degeneration of the certain liver cell and hyperplasia of kupffer cells in the blood sinusoid (H&E 40 X)

It was clear that this substance showed toxicity on liver tissue, especially at high concentrations. Researches indicated the synergistic effect of this substance, it had been showed a therapeutic effect in certain doses, and in larger doses, toxicity had been appeared on living cells. In some *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies clarified this phenomena which appeared to be strongly associated with what called a hormetic effect in the behavior of this substance, where the resveratrol low doses may be associated to curable effects, while the increasing in dose usually lead to toxic effects [27,28].

The hermetic property of resveratrol had regard with a suggestion that associated with the biphasic evidence of redox state affected living cells. This effect had been reported to be; at low doses resveratrol appeared to involved antioxidant activity while the substance may act as pro-oxidant with high doses which may explain the controversial results in these studies [29]. On the other hand, the route of administration and the method of giving treatment played an important role in enhancing and arising the side effects of this substance [30] or due to its metabolism and delivery system [31,32]. Moreover, the solvent used to dissolve the substance may have an enhanced toxicity effect. Resveratrol *in vivo* and *in vitro* bioavailability effects still unclear when administered systemically and due to that the current study tend to applied the intrapretoneal administration which might overcome this therapeutic dilemma, by using ethanol and

DMSO for dissolving resveratrol and safety for long-term *in vivo* treatment remain unknown [21].

In spite that; there were many studies declared that resveratrol possessed therapeutic effects on different liver diseases, that lead to a significant improvements in rate of survival especially in liver transplantation [33-35], besides; resveratrol was widely used as a dietary supplement, a proven safety studies now a day had not found employed the specific doses and administration routes and intervals for this compound with optimal pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics investigation which might lead to an important limitation that for resveratrol dispensing as a drug [36,37].

In a review summarized the most developed delivery systems for resveratrol during the last 5 years, which aimed to overcome some of the limitations derived from the low aqueous solubility, intestinal permeation, bioavailability, and photostability of this substances, including liquid formulations with vesicles, emulsions and nanocapsules, as well as solid formulations based on mesoporous silica nanoparticles and nano-crystals [38,39]. In addition, many factors could play as an effective cause in resveratrol activity and toxicity, such as enzymatic reconversion of resveratrol metabolites to the parent compound at the site of action [40].

Although the protective properties and beneficial effects of resveratrol in huge numbers of human

and animal studies had been reported, the harmful effects of these substances are not enough clinically studied, and since such studies involved that compound was mostly focused on the short-term resveratrol intake, the molecular studies were needed to understand the precise mechanism of action must be better identified [28].

All the repercussions that have been raised about the effect of this substance require urgent studies and research to avoid all harmful effects and make it safer as a successful medical treatment for many disorders.

Perhaps the clearest reason for the varying effect of this substance is that it is a mixture of two isomers that may actually cause a synergistic effect by showing a stronger toxicity for the substance, which is most likely in the researcher's opinion.

5. CONCLUSION

As long as resveratrol constitutes a promising treatment for many cases, starting from improving immunity and using it as a nutritional supplement, and ending with determining the best dose for administering the drug, the best method of administration, and the best pharmaceutical form, all of this requires the preparation of extensive studies that bridge the gap of available information with what is required to identify it as a safe therapeutic substance, not only for treating liver disorders, but for all cases in which the effective and unique effect of that substance was found.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

The research protocols that approved by Animal Care and Use ATU Committee guarantee of AL-Dyaa office for agricultures and veterinary services, involved Health Guidelines for the care and Laboratory Animals use, that provided with assurance certificate and approved by the Animal Ethics Committee. The animals were housed in individual cages under constant research conditions of humidity on a 12 h light/dark cycle, food / water and temperature 22-25°C Protocols.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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