

Evaluation Of Analgesic Activity Of Siddha Formulation Karunkurinji Kudineer In Wistar Albino Rats

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Abstract:

This study aimed to evaluate the analgesic efficacy of Karunkurinji Kudineer. A total of four groups of six albino rats each were established: Group I received distilled water, Group II received 10 mg/kg of aceclofenac sodium, Group III received 10 mg/kg of Karunkurinji Kudineer, and Group IV received 20 mg/kg of Karunkurinji Kudineer. The acetic acid-induced writhing method was employed to assess the analgesic effect. The group I exhibited the highest number of writhes (37.2 ± 2.3), while the aceclofenac sodium group had the lowest (7.9 ± 0.6). Group IV demonstrated a significant reduction in writhes (11.6 ± 0.8) compared to Group III (12.0 ± 1.2). Statistical analysis yielded significant results ($P < 0.05$). These findings suggest that the Siddha formulation Karunkurinji Kudineer possesses analgesic efficacy and may serve as an alternative treatment for painful conditions.

Keywords: Siddha, Analgesic, Albino rats, Writhing method, Acetic Acid.

Introduction:

Pain is defined by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) as "an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage" (1,2). It is triggered by various biochemical mediators, including prostaglandins, bradykinins, and substance P, which interact with nociceptors (3,4). These mediators can lead to both chronic and acute pain. Chronic pain is characterized by persistent discomfort over an extended period, while acute pain has a rapid onset and short duration, typically lasting only a few hours (5,6). Consequently, effective pain management is one of the primary concerns in medical treatment. Research into diverse methods for pain relief is essential due to the widespread prevalence of pain. Medicinal herbs have been utilized for therapeutic purposes for centuries and are often associated with fewer side effects compared to conventional medications.

Pain and inflammation are common symptoms of various conditions. Although non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and opioids are frequently prescribed to manage these symptoms, they can cause adverse effects such as gastrointestinal issues, kidney damage, respiratory depression, and dependence (7,8). As a result, there has been increasing interest in exploring alternative analgesic treatments derived from natural sources, such as Siddha formulations. Karunkurinji Kudineer (KK) is a polyherbal formulation traditionally used to treat lumbar spondylosis (Korai Vatham) (9). This study aims to assess the analgesic effects of Karunkurinji Kudineer using an acetic acid-induced writhing test in rats (10-16).

2. Materials and Methods:

2.1 Drug selection:

KARUNKURINJI KUDINEER was taken as a trial drug from the Siddha literature (9).

2.2 Ingredients:

Ecboium Linguistrum, *Pavonia zeylanica*, *Ricinus communis*, *Zingiber officinale*, *Alphinia officinarum*, *Vitex negundo* (Karunotchi), *Spermacose hispida*, *Vitex negundo*, *Allium sativum* (17).

2.3 Source of raw drugs:

The raw drugs for the preparation of medicine were procured from the raw drug shop at Tirunelveli, TamilNadu. The raw drugs are authenticated by the Pharmacognosist of Government Siddha Medical College & Hospital, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu.

2.4 Purification:

The ingredients of Karunkurinji chooranam were purified as per authenticated Siddha literature (18).

2.5 Preparation of KARUNKURINJI KUDINEER:

The ingredients were powdered in an iron mortar separately made into a coarse powder. The prepared Chooranam (Powder) was stored in a clean, air-tight glass container.

2.6 Evaluation of Analgesic Activity-Acetic acid-induced Writhing test:

Animals:

The adult male albino mice weighing about 25-35 g were obtained from the animal house, K.M. College of Pharmacy, Madurai. The animals were housed under standard laboratory conditions (temperature 23 ± 2 °C) with 12 h dark and 12 h light cycles. The animals had free access to a standard dry pellet diet and tap water *ad libitum*. All procedures were approved by IAEC of K.M college of pharmacy, Madurai. IAEC no: **TNMGR/KMCP/96/2020**.

The given procedure was used to carry out the acetic-acid writhing test^{19,20,21}. The albino rats were divided into four groups of each six animals. Group I served as Negative control receiving Distilled water. Group II-IV served as positive control groups respectively. Group II received Aceclofenac sodium 10mg/kg, Group III received 10mg/kg dose of Karunkurinji Kudineer, and Group IV received 20mg/kg dose of Karunkurinji Kudineer respectively (22,23). Then the

animals received an intraperitoneal injection of 0.1 ml of 0.6% acetic acid after 30 minutes. After that, the number of animal abdominal contractions throughout the following 30 minutes was recorded and the Percentage Analgesic Activity (PAA) was calculated by using the following formula (24).

$$PAA = ((C - CD) / CD) \times 100$$

C = Mean of contractions count in animals treated with different doses of Siddha formulation karunkurinji kudineer and aceclofenac sodium

CD = Mean of contractions counts in animals served as the negative control.

2.7 Statistical analysis:

The results are reported as mean \pm S.E.M. The statistical analyses were performed using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). Group differences were calculated by post hoc analysis using Newmann keuls multiple range tests. For all tests, differences with values of $P < 0.05$ were significant.

3. Results:

The results of the study demonstrated that the various dosages of the Siddha formulation karunkurinji kudineer significantly reduced pain in the animals. As seen in Table 1, the effects of the doses of 10ml and 20mg/Kg Karunkurinji kudineer on analgesic activity were significant and equivalent to those of aceclofenac sodium.

Table 1. Analgesic Effects of Karunkurinji kudineer on acetic acid-induced writhing test

Groups	Treatment	(Number of writhing movements) (Mean \pm S.E)	Percentage %
Group I	Distilled water	37.2 \pm 2.3	-
Group II	aceclofenac sodium 10mg/kg	7.9 \pm 0.6	78.76%*a
Group III	10mg/kg karunkurinji kudineer	12.0 \pm 1.2	67.74%*a
Group IV	20mg/kg karunkurinji kudineer	11.6 \pm 0.8	68.81%*a

* (a) Values are significantly different from Toxic control G1 at $P < 0.05$.

Discussion:

The analgesic effect of Karunkurinji kudineer was assessed using the anti-nociceptive model by acetic acid-induced technique. The writhing reaction caused by acetic acid is a model of visceral pain that is very helpful for testing analgesic medications. Several substances, including phenylquinine and acetic acid, can cause this reflex in animal studies (25). The writhing test, which has been demonstrated to be useful for the research of peripheral antinociceptive activity and was used as a chemical pain model, was used to measure the analgesic activity (26,27,28). In this experiment, intraperitoneal injection of acetic acid (0.6%) resulted in abdominal writhing.

Acetic acid raises the levels of PGE2 and PGF2 in peritoneal fluid (29). Animals respond to acetic acid by writhing because of the chemosensitive nociceptors being activated.

The acetic acid-induced writhing model causes inflammation, which in turn causes pain stimulus that causes tissue to release arachidonic acid. In animal models of pain, the Siddha formulation Karunkurinji kudineer showed considerable, dose-dependent antinociceptive efficacy. The analgesic effect demonstrated in pain modeling suggests that the Siddha formulation Karunkurinji Kudineer may have antinociceptive qualities that are peripherally and centrally mediated. The antinociceptive properties of Siddha formulation Karunkurinji Kudineer may be due to chemical components such as flavonoids, saponins, or phenolic substances. Additionally, it has been reported that the percentage decrease in the number of abdominal constrictions in acetic acid-induced animals serves as a measure of the degree of analgesia.

The mean number of abdominal constrictions or writhes was dramatically reduced in this study at doses of 10mg and 20mg/kg of Karunkurinji kudineer, respectively. Since it has been noted that any agent that reduces the number of writhing will demonstrate analgesia, preferably by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, a peripheral mechanism of pain inhibition, the analgesic effect of Karunkurinji kudineer seen in this experiment may be mediated through peripheral pain mechanism and/or through suppression of prostaglandin pathway.

Conclusion:

Karunkurinji kudineer has anti-nociceptive qualities that are likely mediated by inhibiting prostaglandin synthesis as well as central inhibitory processes. These properties may be useful for the management of pain and inflammatory ailments. Further study is necessary to identify the active compounds present in this extract and to elucidate the mechanisms involved in their analgesic properties.

Conflict of Interests:

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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