

## Physiological Changes Induced by Long Term Administration of Saccharin Compared with Aspartame to Male Albino Rats

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### Abstract:

Artificial sweeteners have been in use by food industries for a long time. Safety concerns raised about artificial sweeteners since they are widely used nowadays. The present work aims to study the possible changes in body weight, blood picture, liver functions, blood glucose and liver glycogen content as well as histopathological changes induced in liver and urinary bladder of male albino rats after administration of two artificial sweeteners (saccharin or aspartame). Male rats were administered saccharin (50 mg/kg b.w.) or aspartame (100 mg/kg b.w.) daily by intragastric gavage for 14 weeks. The results revealed that both saccharin and aspartame provoked highly significant reduction in body weight gain %. Saccharin exerted highly significant reduction in haemoglobin (Hb) level, haematocrit (Hct%) and red blood cells (RBCs) count, while aspartame induced insignificant changes in all haematological parameters. Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activity levels were significantly increased with saccharin and aspartame. Alkaline phosphatase (ALP) levels in serum showed slightly insignificant increase by saccharin administration, while aspartame caused a significant rise in ALP. Blood glucose level of rats given saccharin significantly dropped, while aspartame caused a significant elevation in blood glucose level. Liver glycogen content of rats given saccharin significantly increased, while aspartame caused a significant reduction in liver glycogen content. Microscopic examination of liver sections showed lymphocytic and macrophages infiltration of the portal tract in rats administered saccharin, while aspartame group showed no histopathological changes except slight hydropic degeneration of hepatocytes. Urinary bladder sections of rats administered saccharin revealed proliferation of the mucosal epithelial cells into papillary invaginated projections with highly vascularized connective tissue core and mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration, while aspartame group showed no histopathological alterations. It could be recommended that the use of saccharin as an artificial sweetener should be restricted, while aspartame should not be administered to diabetic. When it is necessary to use artificial sweeteners, fresh fruits and vegetables should be ingested as they act as scavengers for the liberated free radicals and help to delay the postprandial rise in blood glucose level.

### Introduction:

Food additives are substances not normally found in foods which are added to extend shelf life, and improve flavour, colour and texture or sweeten food. Most highly processed foods cannot be made without them. Additives include antioxidants, preservatives, sweeteners, colourants, flavors, emulsifiers and stabilizers (Duyff, 2002).

Sweeteners could be classified as natural nutritive and artificial non-nutritive sweeteners. Nutritive sweeteners include monosaccharides, disaccharides and sugar alcohols from either natural or refined sources. White sugar, brown sugar, honey, corn syrup, glucose, fructose, lactose, maltose, sorbitol

and xylitol are just some of the many nutritive sweeteners used in foods (Wardlaw, 2000). Non-nutritive sweeteners are also referred to as intense sweeteners, very low caloric or alternative sweeteners. These were discovered in the last century, beginning with saccharin which was discovered in 1879, later, this was followed by many other artificial sweeteners including, sucralose, alitame, cyclamate, acesulfame-k and aspartame (Marion and Franz, 1993).

There are various reasons why sweeteners are used. In previous times, there was a medical need and purpose for developing artificial sweeteners, but today

people increasingly choose low-calorie products to reduce their calorie intake. Studies have shown that more than half of the populations prefer artificially sweetened food-stuffs (Hinson and Nicol, 1992).

Saccharin is the oldest of the non-nutritive artificial sweeteners. It is characterized by being non caloric intense artificial sweetener as it has 300-500 times the sweetness of sucrose, but it has a slightly bitter aftertaste (Cook-Fuller, 2000). It has now been in use for over one hundred years and is still of the most important and widely used sweeteners (Spillance, 1996). Saccharin is a very stable compound with respect to heat and time so that it can be used in hot beverages and in food processing that involves application of high temperature such as canned vegetables, bakery products and reduced sugar jams (Mitchell and Pearson, 1991).

There are different forms of saccharin including sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin, potassium and acid saccharin. Sodium saccharin is more often used as it is more palatable (Reynolds and Martindale, 1989). The accepted daily intake of saccharin is 2.5 mg/kg body weight (Fowlkes and Carter, 1994).

Saccharin has been found to cause bladder cancer in male rats and is considered a possible carcinogen by the American Environmental Protection Agency. In the US, food containing saccharin must be labeled with a warning that use of this product may be hazardous to health and has caused cancer in laboratory animals (Williams, 2002).

Aspartame is one of the most widely used of the new sweeteners, discovered in 1965, produced commercially from the methyl ester of two amino acids, L-aspartic and L-phenyl alanine (Wardlaw and Kessel, 2002). It is an artificial sweetener possessing 180-200 times the sweetness potency of sucrose and has a calorie value of 4 Kcal/g. Aspartame was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1981 (American Dietetic Association, 1998). It was approved in Egypt by the Nutrition Institute in 1985 (Ismail and El-Gabry, 1996).

In a dry powder form, aspartame is relatively stable. However, on exposure to moisture, elevated temperature or extremes of

pH, the esterified dipeptide is converted non-enzymatically into a variety of decomposed products (Lipton *et al.*, 1991). Aspartame is used mostly in foods that don't require cooking or baking such as puddings, gelatins, frozen desserts, yogurt, toppings and fillings in precooked bakery goods and cookies, carbonated and powdered soft drinks, instant tea and coffee, breath mints, chewing gum and as a substitute for granulated sugar. However, FDA presented a warning label regarding the potential toxicity of aspartame in patients with phenylketonuria and liver diseases (Duyff, 2002). The accepted daily intake recommended by the FDA is 50 mg/kg body weight/day (Leon *et al.*, 1989).

Clinically, chronic exposure to aspartame was reported to cause headache, blurred vision, epileptic fits and brain tumours as well as eye problems, numbness, insomnia, memory loss, nausea, slurred speech, personality changes, loss of energy, hyperactivity and hearing problems (Van-Den-Eden *et al.*, 1994). Furthermore, aspartame may adversely affect the capacity to control glucose metabolism in diabetic persons causing poor diabetic control and even may lead to precipitation of clinical diabetes in susceptible persons (Sardesai, 1986).

The aim of this work was to study the biochemical and histological changes induced by long term intake of a recently used commercial sweetener; aspartame and compare it with another known sweetener; saccharin to evaluate their hazardous effects on male albino rats.

## **Material and Methods**

Thirty six male albino rats of Sprague Dawley strain, weighing (100-120g) were obtained from Helwan Research Station, Vaccines Association, Ministry of Health, Egypt. Sodium saccharin ( $C_7H_4NO_3SNa$ ) was purchased from El-Gomhoriya Pharm. and Chem. Ind. Comp. Cairo, Egypt and aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester ( $C_4H_{18}N_2O_5$ ) was provided by El-Amriya Pharm. Ind. Comp., Alex. in powder forms.

### **Experimental design:**

Animals were housed in stainless steel cages. They were kept under the same

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controlled laboratory conditions of temperature (25°C), lighting and ventilation. All rats were fed on basal diet with the following ingredients and percentage: protein (casein) 20%, corn oil 10%, vitamin mixture 1%, salt mixture 4%, fiber (cellulose) 5% and the remainder is corn starch (Reeves *et al.*, 1993). After one week, the rats were divided equally into three main groups each of 12 rats as follows:

- 1- Control group : Normal rats.
- 2- Saccharin group : Each rat orally received a daily does of 50 mg/kg b.w. sodium saccharin dissolved in distilled water according to Mitchell and Pearson (1991) through a stomach tube for 14 weeks .
- 3- Aspartame group : Each rat orally received a daily does of 100 mg/kg b.w. aspartamedissolved in distilled water accordingto Powers and Laine (1987) through a stomach tube for 14 weeks .

Body weights of rats were obtained at weekly intervals, and the amounts of sweeteners administrated were adapted according to the body weights on the basis of 50 and 100 mg/kg b.w. of saccharin and aspartame respectively.

### Blood and tissue sampling:

Blood was obtained after 12 hours fasting, from all rat groups using the orbital sinus technique and used for haematological and biochemical parameters. The heparinized blood was freshly used for blood count assay. Haemoglobin concentration and haematocrit level were determined according to Dacie and Lewis (1975). The blood samples were centrifuged for 10 min at 3000 rpm and the supernatant sera were separated for biochemical analysis.

Separated serum samples were used for determination of glucose enzymatically (Trinder, 1969), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotrasferase (AST) activities (Reitman and Frankel, 1957) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity level (Belfield and Goldberg, 1971).

After collection of blood, the animals were dissected and tissues (liver and urinary bladder) were got out. The analysis also

included determination of glycogen content in liver (Hassid and Abraham, 1957).

### Histological study:

Specimens from liver and urinary bladder were fixed immediately in 10% neutral buffered formalin, dehydrated in different grades of alcohol, cleared in xylol, embedded in paraffin wax, sectioned at 4-6  $\mu$  thick and stained with haematoxylin and Eosin (Bancroft *et al.*, 1996) and examined microscopically.

### Statistical analysis:

All the data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard error (SE). The comparison between groups was performed with the Student 't' test (Snedecor and Cochron, 1989).

## Results

**Table (1): Effect of saccharin or aspartame on body weight gain percent in different rat groups.**

Experimental groups	Body weight gain %
Control	82.97 $\pm$ 5.82 (100%)
Saccharin	56.15 $\pm$ 3.11 <sup>**</sup> (67.68%)
Aspartame	61.66 $\pm$ 2.95 <sup>**</sup> (74.32%)

- Each value represents the mean of 12 rats  $\pm$  SE.
- \* Significant difference compared to control at P < 0.05 and \*\* P < 0.01 as judged by Student "t" test.

The body weight gain percent in rats administered saccharin or aspartame was presented in Table (1). The results revealed highly significant reduction in body weight gain % in both saccharin and aspartame groups with percentages equal to 67.68 and 74.32% , respectively when compared to the control group.

Table (2) showed haematological parameters in rats administered saccharin or aspartame. Saccharin exerted highly significant reduction in Hb concentration, Hct% and RBCs count with percentage 74.92, 80.73 and 80.67% respectively and non significant changes in WBC when compared to control rats. Meanwhile, aspartame induced non-significant changes

**Table (2): Effect of saccharin or aspartame on haematological parameters in different rat groups.**

Experimental groups	Hb (g/dl)	Hct (%)	R.B.Cs 10 <sup>6</sup>	W.B.C 10 <sup>3</sup>
Control	14.75±0.97 (100%)	38.61± 1.91 (100%)	7.19 ± 0.37 (100%)	7.61 ± 0.62 (100%)
Saccharin	11.05±0.58 <sup>**a</sup> (74.92%)	31.17±0.98 <sup>**a</sup> (80.73%)	5.8 ± 0.19 <sup>**</sup> (80.67%)	6.92 ± 0.61 (90.93%)
Aspartame	14.43 ± 1.16 (97.83)	36.3 ± 2.2 (94.02%)	6.96 ± 0.58 (96.80%)	7.31 ± 0.69 (96.06%)

- Each value represents the mean of 12 rats ± SE.
- \* Significant difference compared to control at P < 0.05 and \*\* P < 0.01 as judged by Student “t” test.
- a: Significant difference between saccharin and aspartame groups.

**Table (3): Effect of saccharin or aspartame on serum activity levels of alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in different rat groups.**

Experimental groups	ALT (µ mole/dl/min)	AST (µ mole/dl/min)	ALP (U/dl)
Control	50.08 ± 3.78 (100%)	150.39 ± 7.13 (100%)	5.6 ± 0.39 (100%)
Saccharin	59.79 ± 2.51 <sup>*</sup> (119.39%)	169.41 ± 4.49 <sup>*</sup> (112.65%)	6.17 ± 0.63 (110.18%)
Aspartame	65.87 ± 5.92 <sup>*</sup> (131.53%)	176.93 ± 6.71 <sup>*</sup> (117.65%)	6.59 ± 0.11 <sup>*</sup> (117.68%)

- Each value represents the mean of 12 rats ± SE.
- \* Significant difference compared to control at P < 0.05 and \*\* P < 0.01 as judged by Student “t” test.

in all parameters. There were significant differences between saccharin and aspartame groups in Hb level and Hct%, while the differences were non significant in RBCs and WBC count.

The activity levels of ALT, AST and ALP in serum of rats administered saccharin or aspartame are presented in Table (3). The data indicated significant increase in ALT and AST activity levels in both saccharin and aspartame groups with percentages equal to 119.39 and 131.53% for ALT and 112.65 and 117.65% for AST in saccharin and aspartame group, respectively. Administration of aspartame to rats induced significant increase in ALP level when compared to control with percentage 117.68%. Meanwhile, saccharin induced slightly insignificant increase in ALP level when compared to the control group.

The glucose concentration and liver glycogen content of rats administered saccharin or aspartame are shown in Table 4. The data indicated a significant reduction in

glucose concentration as a result of saccharin administration with percentage of 80.67% when compared to control, meanwhile aspartame induced highly significant elevation with percentage of 145.02% when compared to control. There was significant difference between saccharin and aspartame groups.

**Table (4): Effect of saccharin or aspartame on blood glucose concentration and liver glycogen content in different rat groups.**

Experimental Groups	Glucose (mg/dl)	Liver glycogen (mg/g wet liver)
Control	90.71 ± 6.67 (100%)	7.97 ± 0.62 (100%)
Saccharin	73.18± 4.49 <sup>**a</sup> (80.67%)	11.63 ± 1.13 <sup>a</sup> (145.92%)
Aspartame	131.6±10.17 <sup>**</sup> (145.08%)	5.48 ± 0.52 <sup>*</sup> (68.76%)

- Each value represents the mean of 12 rats ± SE.
- \* Significant difference compared to control at P<0.05 and \*\* P < 0.01 as judged by Student “t” test.
- a: Significant difference between saccharin and aspartame groups.

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Rats administered saccharin showed elevation in liver glycogen content with percentage of 145.92%, while group administered aspartame showed significant reduction with percentage of 68.76% when compared to control. Significant difference between saccharin and aspartame groups was recorded in liver glycogen content.

### Histological results:

Microscopical examination of liver from control rats revealed the normal histological structure of hepatic lobule, which consists of central vein and concentrically arranged hepatocytes (Fig. 1). Portal traid presents between three hepatic lobules. Concerning liver of rats administered saccharin showed portal infiltration with

mononuclear inflammatory cells mainly lymphocytes and macrophages (Fig. 2). Liver of rats administered aspartame showed slight hydropic degeneration of hepatocytes (Fig.3)

Microscopical examination of urinary bladder from control group showed no histological alterations (Fig. 4). Bladder sections of rats administered saccharin revealed proliferation of the mucosal epithelial cells into papillary invaginated projections (Fig. 5) and fibrous connective tissue core which rich in well developed dilated blood vessels as well as mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltrations (Fig. 6). Meanwhile, the bladder sections of rats administered aspartame showed no histopathological alterations (Fig.7).

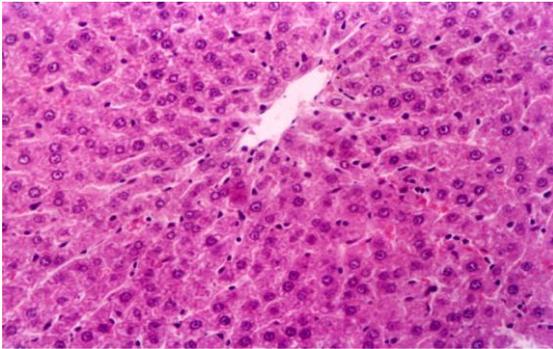


Fig.(1): Liver of control rats showing the normal histological structure of hepatic lobule from central vein and hepatocytes.  
(H&E stain X 200)

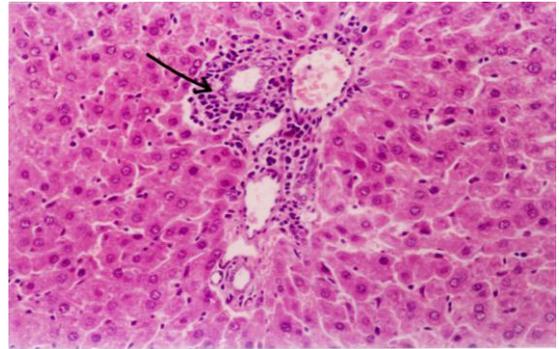


Fig.(2): Liver of rats administered saccharin showing portal infiltration with mononuclear inflammatory cells.  
(H&E stain X 200).

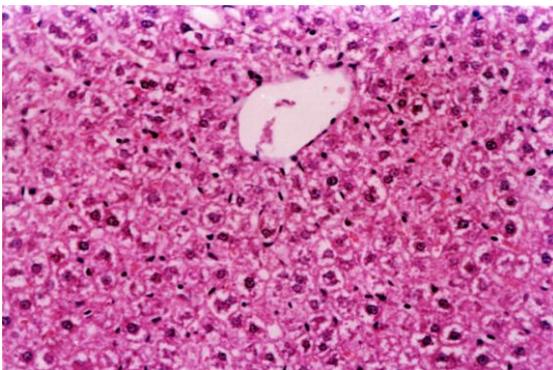


Fig.(3): Liver of rats administered aspartame showing slight hydropic degeneration of hepatocytes.  
(H&E stain X 200)

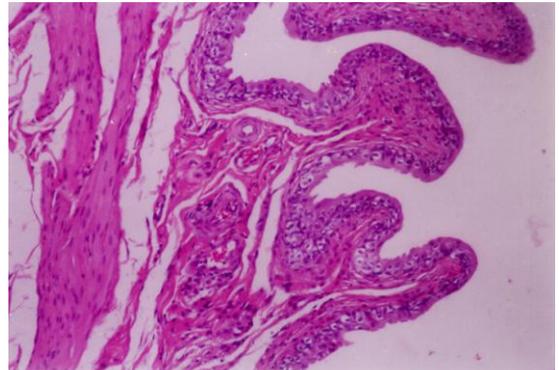


Fig.(4):Urinary bladder of rats from control group showing no histological changes.  
(H&E stain X 100)

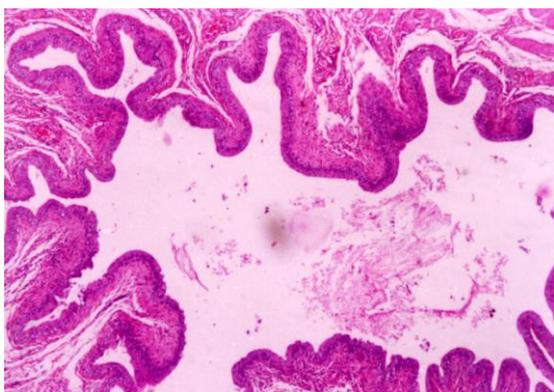


Fig.(5): Urinary bladder of rats administered saccharin showing proliferated papillary projections of the mucosa associated with fibrous connective tissue core. (H&E stain x 40)

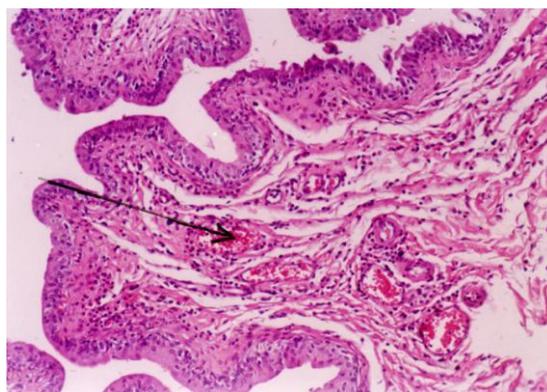


Fig.(6): Higher magnification of Fig.5 showing the highly vascularized connective tissue core (arrows) and mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration. (H&E stain x 100)

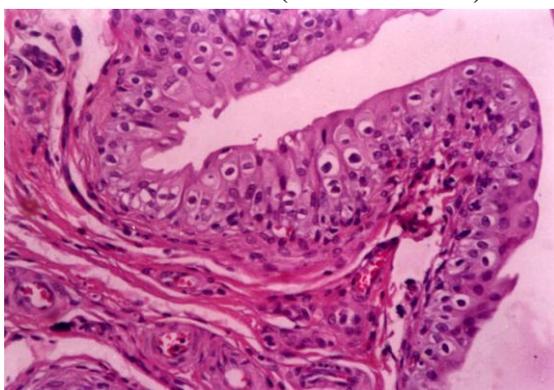


Fig.(7): Urinary bladder of rats administered aspartame showing no histological changes. (H&E stain x 200).

## Discussion

Artificial sweeteners are widely used nowadays, when the sensitivity of the people to the general health increased, the subject of sweeteners as food additives will take dangerous and effective dimension. It is almost impossible to follow a diet which is completely free from sweeteners and other food additives. The toxicity of sweeteners has become increasing and has attracted the concern of many scientists to study their toxic effect. Several previous studies have revealed that the use of artificial sweeteners may entail some hazards to the users (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2000). These include incidence of bladder carcinoma in mice and rats and other tumors

in different tissues as well as reports of induction of hyperplasia (Cohen *et al.*, 2000).

The present results showed highly significant reduction in body weight gain percent in both aspartame and saccharin groups when compared to the control group. In agreement with this result Dib *et al.* (1996) reported a significant reduction in body weight of rats (50%) after administration of sodium saccharin for 14 days. Garland *et al.* (1991 b) also noted that body weights of saccharin treated male and female rats were significantly lower than the controls after 12 weeks treatment. They attributed this weight loss to reduce food consumption per day.

On the other hand, Rolls (1991) reported that both short term and long term studies have shown that consumption of aspartame sweetened foods or drinks is associated with a reduction in food intake. Blundell and Hill (1986) concluded that aspartame may lead to a loss of appetite.

In the present study, saccharin group showed insignificant changes in WBCs level and highly significant reduction in Hct%, Hb and RBCs levels, meanwhile aspartame group showed insignificant changes in all parameters. In agreement with these results, Garland *et al.* (1991 a) reported that parental rats and their off-springs fed on sodium saccharin for 30 days developed anaemia as indicated by the decrease in red blood cells and haemoglobin .

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On the other hand, Leon *et al.* (1989) evaluated the safety of administration of aspartame in a dose of 75 mg/kg/day in male and female volunteers for a period of 24 weeks. They found no significant changes in complete blood cell count that included white blood cells that were reported within the normal ranges. The haematological disorders manifested mainly by saccharin may be attributed to the prevention of red blood cell synthesis via inhibition of erythropoiesis in the bone marrow with resultant development of anaemia (Prasad and Rai, 1987).

The present study revealed that administration of the two sweeteners induced hepatic cellular changes. This is proved by a significant increase in ALT and AST activities in both saccharin and aspartame groups when compared to the control group. Furthermore, aspartame group showed significant increase in ALP level, while saccharin group showed slightly non significant increase in ALP level when compared to the control group. These results were in agreement with Kamal *et al.* (2000) who noted that the activities of AST and ALP increased significantly after administration of aspartame to healthy adult albino rats for 5 weeks. The elevation in serum aminotransferase activities could be due to drastic physiological effects caused by free radicals interaction with cellular membranes or may be related to breakdown of liver parenchyma (Gray *et al.*, 1985).

In addition, Negro *et al.* (1994) reported elevated serum concentrations of liver enzymes after the oral administration of three different drugs, of which saccharin was the only common constituent. The liver cells play an important role in both synthesis and secretion of ALP into the bile. Therefore, the alterations in ALP activity caused by aspartame and to a lesser extent by saccharin may be attributed to early cholestatic liver damage which primarily affects the liver parenchyma, thus making ALP a sensitive index in the diagnosis of infiltrative diseases (El-Elaimy and El-Nabi, 1990).

In the obtained results, there was significant reduction in blood glucose level and significant elevation in liver glycogen

content of saccharin group when compared to the control group. This finding was in agreement with that reported by Horwitz *et al.* (1988) in animals who found that chronic consumption of large amounts of saccharin might reduce blood glucose concentration. Bailey *et al.* (1997) reported reduction of hyperinsulinemia, decrease the insulin resistance and improve glycemic control during saccharin consumption in hyperglycemic obese mice.

The present results also revealed that administration of aspartame to rats induced highly significant elevation in blood glucose level and significant reduction in liver glycogen content when compared to the control group. This was in agreement with Kamal *et al.* (2000) who reported significant increase in serum glucose levels of healthy and diabetic rat groups fed on 100 mg/kg b.w. /day aspartame for a period of 5 weeks. It was also reported that administration of oral doses of aspartame in normal humans lead to a significant rise of glucose but did not alter serum insulin (Carlson and Shah, 1989). The increased serum glucose level in aspartame group may be attributed to the amino acids composition of aspartame where phenylalanine is considered to be both glucogenic and, ketogenic, while aspartic acid considered to be partially glucogenic amino acid and consequently converted to glucose (Devlin, 1997). The glycogenolytic effect of aspartame may be due to its direct effect on cell stimulating glycogenolysis or due to its effect on other cytoplasmic membranous organelles and the associated enzymes necessary for glycogen synthesis (Sulik, 1974).

The histological examination of liver sections of rats administered saccharin revealed that the portal triad was infiltrated with mononuclear inflammatory cells mainly lymphocytes and macrophages. The same observation was reported by Hassanin (1998) who noted that the portal tract in liver sections of rats received saccharin for six weeks showed moderate infiltration by mononuclear inflammatory cells, mainly lymphocytes and there was vascular congestion. This observation was contradicted with the announcement reported by

Shakoori *et al.* (1995) that administration of high (260 mg/kg b.w.) and low dose (65mg/kg b.w.) saccharin to male albino Swiss mice for 39 weeks caused hypertrophy of hepatic cells, their nuclei and nucleoli and excessive vacuolation of cell cytoplasm. The discrepancies observed between this study and the latter research study may be attributed to variations in the concentration and duration of saccharin administration.

In this study, aspartame produced slight hydropic degeneration of hepatocytes. This finding was in coincidence with the observation of El-Gengihi *et al.* (1993) who found that aspartame treated rats developed minimal hydropic degeneration of hepatocytes. Hertelendy *et al.* (1993) stated that aspartame was found to be rapidly metabolized with negligible toxicity and borderline liver decompensation. They marked that it might be used with relative safety. Liver has a major role in aspartame metabolism. Degeneration is a disturbance in the metabolism of the cell resulting in morphologic abnormalities. Hydropic degeneration means that mitochondria is affected with the result of lack of energy (Abdin, 1981).

Histological examination of urinary bladder sections of rats administered saccharin revealed proliferation of the mucosal epithelial cells into papillary invaginated projections. Urinary bladder hyperplastic lesions were generally classified into, simple diffuse hyperplasia, focal or papillary hyperplasia, papilloma and carcinoma (Cohen, 1983). In this study, the hyperplasia was found to be mainly focal. In agreement with this result, Okamura *et al.* (1991) demonstrated both simple and focal hyperplasia of the transitional epithelium in rats received 5% sodium saccharin in their diet for 10 weeks.

Moreover, Cohen and Ellwein (1991) observed that prolonged administration of sodium saccharin related to the development of bladder cancer as it was revealed to increase urothelial cell proliferation of adult rats. The proliferative effect of saccharin was found to be a dose and duration dependent (Murasaki and Cohen, 1981).

Sodium saccharin was reported to be a promoter of urinary bladder carcinogenesis

in rats. This carcinogenic effect was found to be greater in males than in females especially when they kept on high dietary concentration of sodium saccharin from birth (Lewis *et al.*, 1992). This finding in the saccharin administered rats may be attributed to the fact that sodium saccharin induces alkalization of urine pH >6.5 and increases sodium ion concentration which increase the formation of silicate precipitates and/or crystals in the urine. Formation of such precipitates have been postulated to play crucial roles in the proliferative effect of sodium saccharin (Anderson, 1988 and Elcock and Morgan, 1993). Increased DNA synthesis leading to an increased turn over rate of urothelial cells and hyperplasia after prolonged intake of sodium saccharin was also considered to have important role (Debiec and Wang, 1990).

On the other hand, the present study revealed that examination of rats' urinary bladder received aspartame showed no histological changes. The same observations were reported by Hagiwara *et al.* (1984) and Ito *et al.* (1989) who supported and confirmed the present study as they could not demonstrate any harmful effects on the urinary bladder after prolonged administration of aspartame to experimental animals.

From the present results it could be concluded that the intake of saccharin succeeded in reducing blood glucose level but caused evident inflammatory hepatic cells and severely affected the urinary bladder causing epithelium hypelplasia. While, equivalent doses of aspartame caused less and no histological changes in liver and urinary bladder respectively but induced elevation in blood glucose level.

Therefore, it could be recommended that the use of saccharin as an artificial sweetener should be restricted. On the other hand, aspartame should not be administered to diabetic due to its effect on blood glucose elevation, further investigations also should be conducted concerning its effect on other organs and its use for more prolonged periods.

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## التغيرات الفسيولوجية الناتجة عن إعطاء السكرين مقارنة بالأسبارتام لمدة طويلة لذكور الفئران البيضاء

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تم استخدام المحليات الصناعية فى مجال الصناعات الغذائية منذ فترة طويلة من الزمن، وفى الآونة الأخيرة إزداد الاهتمام بالمحليات الصناعية ومدى أمان تناولها وذلك لإنتشار تناولها واستخدامها. يهدف هذا العمل الى دراسة التغيرات المحتملة الحدوث فى وزن الجسم، صورة الدم، وظائف الكبد، سكر الدم، وجليكوجين الكبد، بالإضافة إلى دراسة التغيرات الهستوباثولوجية فى أنسجة الكبد والمثانة البولية لذكور فئران التجارب بعد إعطائها نوعين من المحليات الصناعية السكرين أو الأسبارتام. وقد تم إعطاء السكرين بجرعة مقدارها (50مجم/كجم من وزن الجسم) والأسبارتام بجرعة مقدارها (100مجم/كجم من وزن الجسم) يومياً عن طريق الفم لمدة 14 أسبوع. أوضحت النتائج حدوث نقص معنوى ذو دلالة إحصائية عالية فى وزن الفئران التى أعطيت كلاً من السكرين والأسبارتام. كما حدث نقص معنوى ذو دلالة إحصائية عالية فى مستوى الهيموجلوبين، الهيماتوكريت وعدد كرات الدم الحمراء فى فئران التجارب التى أعطيت السكرين، بينما لم يحدث أى تغيرات معنوية فى صورته الدم فى الفئران التى أعطيت الأسبارتام. أوضحت النتائج أيضاً وجود زيادة معنوية فى مستويات الإنزيمات الناقلة لمجموعة الامينات فى كلاً من مجموعة السكرين و الأسبارتام. أدى إعطاء السكرين للفئران إلى حدوث زيادة طفيفة غير معنوية فى مستوى إنزيم الفوسفاتيز القلوى بينما سبب إعطاء الأسبارتام للفئران زيادة معنوية فى مستوى إنزيم الفوسفاتيز القلوى. حدث نقص معنوى فى مستوى سكر الدم لمجموعة الفئران التى أعطيت السكرين، بينما زاد مستوى سكر الدم زيادة معنوية فى مجموعة الفئران التى أعطيت الأسبارتام. كما سجلت النتائج حدوث زيادة معنوية فى محتوى الكبد من الجليكوجين فى مجموعة الفئران التى أعطيت السكرين، بينما انخفض محتوى الكبد من الجليكوجين انخفاض معنوى فى المجموعة التى أعطيت الأسبارتام. أوضح الفحص الميكروسكوبى للكبد وجود إلتهاب فى الخلايا الليمفاوية والخلايا الأوكولة حول الأوردة البابية فى مجموعة الفئران التى أعطيت السكرين أما المجموعة التى أعطيت الأسبارتام فلم تظهر أى تغيرات باثولوجية فيما عدا تحلل طفيف لبعض خلايا الكبد. أما الفحص الميكروسكوبى للمثانة البولية فقد أظهر زيادة تكاثر الخلايا المبطنة لجدار المثانة مكونة نتوءات تحتوى على حليمات مع احتواء النسيج الضام على عديد من الأوعية الدموية والخلايا الملتهبة وحيدة الأنوية. أما المجموعة التى أعطيت الأسبارتام فلم تظهر أى تغيرات باثولوجية. وتوصى الدراسة بتقليل وحصر استخدام السكرين كمادة محلية صناعية وعلى الجانب الآخر بعدم استخدام الأسبارتام لمرض السكر مع إستمرار الأبحاث عن تأثيره على الأعضاء المختلفة ودراسة لفتره أطول. وفى حالة ضروره استخدام المحليات الصناعية يجب تناول الخضروات والفواكه الطازجة حيث تعمل على حماية الأنسجة من الشوارد الحرة، كما تساعد فى تأخير إرتفاع مستوى الجلوكوز فى الدم بعد تناول الطعام.