



Research Article

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REFLECTIONS OF ABHRAK BHASMA MEDIATED HEPATOPROTECTIVE EFFECTS ON LIPIDS AND PHOSPHOLIPIDS IN SINGLE DOSE OF CCL₄ INTOXICATED RAT

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ABSTRACT

Total lipids and phospholipids are diagnostically of relative importance in assessing the state of organisms health. They are susceptible to CCl₄ induced fatty degeneration in liver and can be used to assess hepatic damage/protection. The present study was aimed to evaluate hepatoprotective influence of abhtrak bhasma on total lipids and phospholipid contents. To differentiate the silica mediated effects since abhtrak bhasma is mica – silica ore derived. SiO₂ was used as silica drug control. Hepatotoxicity was induced by subcutaneous administration of single dose of 3.0 ml CCl₄/kg body wt for 24 h. 10, 20, 30 and 40 mg doses of abhtrak bhasma and amorphous SiO₂ were given orally to CCl₄ intoxicated rats. CCl₄ administration to rats, caused a significant alterations in total lipids and phospholipid contents in liver, kidney and serum; indicating fatty degeneration and hence alterations in functions of liver. These altered levels of lipids and phospholipid were retrieved to near normal level by graded doses of abhtrak bhasma in CCl₄ treated rat. Abhtrak bhasma was more effective than SiO₂. The results indicate that hepatoprotective activity of abhtrak bhasma was dose dependent. 10 mg dose being minimum effective dose and higher doses maintained lipid and phospholipid metabolism. SiO₂ indicated similar results. All the doses of abhtrak bhasma potentially protect/ recover the liver fatty degeneration by fat mobilization influencing liver and serum total lipids and hepatic cell membrane protection influencing phospholipids content of liver and serum. SiO₂ higher doses also showed similar effects, but with some differences.

Keywords: Abhtrak bhasma, Fatty degeneration, Hepatotoxicity, SiO₂, Phospholipids, Total lipids.

INTRODUCTION

Liver plays an important role during protection against hazards of harmful drugs, chemicals and xenobiotics. It is involved in lipid metabolism, protein metabolism and detoxification of xenobiotics¹. Therefore total lipids and phospholipids in liver, kidney and serum are diagnostically of relative importance in assessing the state of organism's health². Most of the compounds from lipids are phospholipids; which occur normally in cell membranes and lipoproteins, where they are structural and functional entity³. All membranous organelles contain phospholipids and the mitochondria which are the regulators of cell metabolism and energy production in the body. They also play an essential role in signal transduction, triglycerides transport and membrane related activities³. Carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) is known to exert toxic effects on liver and associated effect on kidney by altering free radical mediated oxidative status. Activated metabolites of CCl₄ i.e. CCl₃ attacks easily on lipids resulting in damage to intracellular membranes and also the plasma membranes¹. CCl₄ generated free radicals (CCl₃) lead to fatty degeneration even by single dose where accumulation of fats in centrolobular region is significant histological picture⁴. Thus both accumulation of fats in hepatocytes and failure to deposit fats may be influencing the transport of various components of lipids. It has been already shown that CCl₄ can interfere with the liver phospholipid synthesis⁵. Their alterations cause tissue dysfunctions and has been used its toxicity as hepatotoxicity model especially of centrolobular zone.

Abhtrak bhasma is a commonly used Ayurvedic drug against varied diseases and disorders including hepatitis. Its use as anti-aging, pro-immunity and rejuvenation agent is also popular⁶. Abhtrak bhasma at 20 mg dose had been protective in inhibiting centrolobular fatty degeneration in single dose of CCl₄ induced fatty degenerative effects showing rats⁴ by influencing lipases: acid, alkaline and hormone sensitive⁷, lipid peroxidation⁸ and glutathione contents⁹. In present work, abhtrak bhasma and SiO₂ induced alterations in total lipid and phospholipid contents in liver, kidney and serum of single dose induced CCl₄ intoxicated male albino rats were evaluated. To differentiate silica influenced effects, SiO₂ was used as silica control for abhtrak bhasma, since abhtrak bhasma is prepared from mica-silica ore.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Experimental Animal

Male albino rats, *Rattus norvegicus* weighing about 130-140 g each were used for experiments. They were bred and maintained in the Departmental Animal House (Reg. No. 233/CPCSEA) under standard conditions and were given standard pellet diet (prepared by Amrit feeds, Sangli, MS, India). Food and water were provided *ad libitum*.

Preparation of abhtrak bhasma and SiO₂

Abhtrak bhasma was prepared in the laboratory as described in Rasa Ratna Sammucchaya under the

supervision of Ayurvedacharya⁶. SiO₂ treatment was given as silica control. To study dose dependent effects of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ on total lipids and phospholipid contents of liver, kidney and serum; different doses viz. 10, 20, 30 and 40 mg/kg body wt were administered orally with honey. Honey control rats group that were used showed data as normal rat, therefore, honey control group data is not presented.

Experimental Design

The experimental animals were divided into following groups, each comprising of six animals.

Group 1- The rats were maintained as normal without any treatment.

Group 2- Hepatotoxicity induced by single dose of 3.0 ml CCl₄/ kg body wt for 24 h sc.

Group 3- 10 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt was given po.

Group 4- 20 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt was given po.

Group 5- 30 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt was given po.

Group 6- 40 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt was given po.

Group 7- 10 mg SiO₂/kg body wt was given po.

Group 8- 20 mg SiO₂/kg body wt was given po.

Group 9- 30 mg SiO₂/kg body wt was given po.

Group 10- 40 mg SiO₂/kg body wt was given po.

Group 11- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 10 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 12- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 20 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 13- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 30 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 14- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 40 mg abhrak bhasma/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 15- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 10 mg SiO₂/ kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 16- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 20 mg SiO₂/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 17- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 30 mg SiO₂/kg body wt po for 24 h.

Group 18- CCl₄ (3.0 ml/kg body wt) sc + 40 mg SiO₂/kg body wt po for 24 h.

The rats were killed after 24 h by giving deep ether anesthesia and liver and kidney tissues were separated from animals and taken for biochemical estimation.

Preparation of tissue homogenates

The liver and kidney were perfused with chilled phosphate buffer saline (PBS). They were dissected out, minced and washed with PBS. The minces were then suspended in 10 mM Tris-HCl homogenizing buffer (pH 7.0). The minces were homogenized with Potter-Elvehjem homogenizer with Teflon piston at 1500 RPM with 8 up and down strokes. The liver and kidney homogenates were centrifuged in refrigerated centrifuge at 4°C for 10 minutes at 3000 × g. The supernatants were collected and used for biochemical estimation.

Collection of serum

The blood was aspirated from the left ventricle with the syringe and was allowed to clot at room temperature in test tubes. On clotting the serum samples were obtained by centrifuging the clots using table top centrifuge. The colorless samples were stored at 10°C until use (within 6 h).

Biochemical estimation

Total lipid content in serum was estimated as per Frings *et al.*, (1972)¹⁰ and phospholipid content was estimated by method of Zilversmit and Davis (1950)¹¹.

Statistical analysis

The results were expressed as Mean ± SEM of different groups. The significant differences between groups were evaluated by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by student 't' test. The statistical calculations were carried out with the help of XLSTAT 7.5 computer programme. Values P < 0.05, P < 0.01 and P < 0.001 were considered to show statistical significance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our preparatory data (not-presented) it was observed that single dose of CCl₄ induced toxicity in male albino rat is normalized after 72 h; if not treated by any of the drug/s. But simultaneous treatments of single graded doses of abhrak bhasma normalized the liver and kidney functions¹² and histology within 24 h¹³. Therefore present experimental design included data of 24 h that shows hepatoprotection by reducing the time interval of recovery.

Table 1: Effect of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ on total lipid contents in liver, kidney and serum of male albino rats

Groups	Liver	Kidney	Serum
	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/dl
Normal	6284.54 ± 106.14	1892.34 ± 62.13	148.43 ± 6.48
10 mg AB	6187.35 ± 84.27	1874.91 ± 56.74	157.68 ± 9.52
20 mg AB	5941.57 ± 115.36	1806.37 ± 68.19	148.54 ± 8.94
30 mg AB	6114.98 ± 134.69	1799.98 ± 92.34	152.54 ± 10.67
40 mg AB	6111.32 ± 89.98	1784.78 ± 96.26	153.48 ± 7.69
10 mg SiO ₂	5998.67 ± 154.69	1872.96 ± 93.39	146.65 ± 11.58
20 mg SiO ₂	6036.67 ± 123.17	1846.26 ± 66.88	149.35 ± 8.69
30 mg SiO ₂	6311.15 ± 148.00	2009.14 ± 89.16	162.25 ± 14.25
40 mg SiO ₂	6565.52 ± 187.41	2084.33 ± 72.84	175.36 ± 9.18 ^a

Values are mean ± SE of 6 animals. P values: a < 0.05; b < 0.01; c < 0.001 vs normal rats

Table 2: Effect of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ on total lipid contents in liver, kidney and serum of CCl₄ intoxicated male albino rats

Groups	Liver	Kidney	Serum
	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/dl
Normal	6189.54 ± 96.25	1912.07 ± 54.33	148.65 ± 6.98
CCl ₄ [3.0 ml/kgBW]sc	7223.14 ± 221.41 ^b	2228.36 ± 107.65 ^a	214.68 ± 5.99 ^c
CCl ₄ + 10 mg AB	6848.32 ± 195.41 ^a	2199.11 ± 97.34 ^a	191.68 ± 8.97 ^b
CCl ₄ + 20 mg AB	6429.69 ± 195.14	2016.03 ± 91.44	168.39 ± 9.41 ^{xy}
CCl ₄ + 30 mg AB	6288.68 ± 98.87 ^y	1987.22 ± 79.39	156.36 ± 11.69 ^y
CCl ₄ + 40 mg AB	6078.22 ± 189.25 ^y	1936.35 ± 96.16	153.67 ± 8.47 ^z
CCl ₄ + 10 mg SiO ₂	7135.35 ± 195.42 ^b	2200.18 ± 96.13 ^a	205.68 ± 13.25 ^b
CCl ₄ + 20 mg SiO ₂	6989.56 ± 188.17 ^b	2018.36 ± 79.16	198.71 ± 10.24 ^b
CCl ₄ + 30 mg SiO ₂	6598.47 ± 141.32 ^{xy}	2088.19 ± 68.47	168.97 ± 9.38 ^y
CCl ₄ + 40 mg SiO ₂	6894.58 ± 196.35 ^a	2192.14 ± 92.18 ^a	190.72 ± 14.25 ^b

Values are mean ± SE of 6 animals. P values: a < 0.05; b < 0.01; c < 0.001 vs normal rats; x < 0.05; y < 0.01; z < 0.001 vs CCl₄ treated rats

Table 3: Effect of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ on phospholipid contents in liver, kidney and serum of male albino rats

Groups	Liver	Kidney	Serum
	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/dl
Normal	1624.21 ± 94.51	1402.29 ± 75.91	112.54 ± 9.36
10 mg AB	1621.25 ± 125.35	1454.21 ± 74.57	115.64 ± 5.68
20 mg AB	1612.34 ± 128.47	1425.45 ± 36.54	122.21 ± 9.64
30 mg AB	1599.29 ± 95.47	1433.36 ± 54.68	118.54 ± 4.99
40 mg AB	1612.54 ± 108.52	1498.62 ± 101.68	116.35 ± 9.68
10 mg SiO ₂	1631.21 ± 109.64	1408.68 ± 89.67	111.65 ± 10.65
20 mg SiO ₂	1621.33 ± 136.21	1368.44 ± 53.64	113.51 ± 5.69
30 mg SiO ₂	1588.68 ± 136.24	1388.39 ± 111.55	126.14 ± 10.58
40 mg SiO ₂	1561.57 ± 128.59	1337.43 ± 106.5	128.65 ± 8.57

Values are mean ± SE of 6 animals. P values: a < 0.05; b < 0.01; c < 0.001 vs normal rats

Table 4: Effect of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ on phospholipid contents in liver, kidney and serum of CCl₄ intoxicated male albino rats

Groups	Liver	Kidney	Serum
	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/ 100 g Tissue	mg/dl
Normal	1641.21 ± 104.32	1442.22 ± 56.21	116.14 ± 5.64
CCl ₄ [3.0 ml/kg BW]sc	1181.25 ± 154.48 ^a	1372.69 ± 111.24	168.84 ± 12.25 ^b
CCl ₄ + 10 mg AB	1498.10 ± 121.14	1414.87 ± 146.31	126.54 ± 8.34 ^x
CCl ₄ + 20 mg AB	1604.32 ± 94.20 ^x	1431.16 ± 69.58	124.47 ± 6.58 ^x
CCl ₄ + 30 mg AB	1632.54 ± 98.68 ^y	1441.63 ± 104.25	121.01 ± 6.32 ^y
CCl ₄ + 40 mg AB	1601.61 ± 131.51 ^x	1443.09 ± 96.21	122.54 ± 5.69 ^y
CCl ₄ + 10 mg SiO ₂	1398.22 ± 114.64	1399.99 ± 96.35	154.58 ± 9.11 ^b
CCl ₄ + 20 mg SiO ₂	1495.19 ± 112.48 ^x	1412.12 ± 65.64	141.25 ± 11.35
CCl ₄ + 30 mg SiO ₂	1598.87 ± 101.45 ^y	1408.38 ± 108.12	131.54 ± 5.57 ^x
CCl ₄ + 40 mg SiO ₂	1588.31 ± 108.61 ^y	1397.54 ± 109.54	134.21 ± 6.37 ^y

Values are mean ± SE of 6 animals. P values: a < 0.05; b < 0.01; c < 0.001 vs normal rats; x < 0.05; y < 0.01; z < 0.001 vs CCl₄ treated rats

Alterations in total lipid contents

Total lipid contents in liver of normal group of albino rats was 6284.54 ± 106.14 mg per 100 g tissue; which was maintained at its normal level by treatments of all studied doses of abhrak bhasma. Similarly treatments of 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg and 40 mg doses of SiO₂ also protected normal lipid level in liver. The results of kidney lipids showed no influence of CCl₄ or all the studied doses of abhrak bhasma. Treatments of SiO₂ also showed effects similar to the effects of abhrak bhasma in total lipid contents of kidney. In serum of normal rats total lipid contents was 148.43 ± 6.48 mg/dl. Treatment of 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg and 40 mg doses of abhrak bhasma maintained lipid contents. Administration of 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg SiO₂ doses did follow the alterations in serum lipid contents as that of abhrak bhasma. While treatment of 40 mg SiO₂ dose showed significant rise (P < 0.05) as compared to the lipid contents of normal rat. These results indicated that abhrak bhasma administration to albino rats maintained normal state of lipid metabolism with reference to total lipid content as compared to SiO₂

treated control groups. But SiO₂ results deflected with 40 mg dose. These alterations confirm the SiO₂ influence at highest dose studied earlier viz. liver and kidney functions¹², Lipid peroxidation and glutathione^{8,9} and histological alterations⁴ in same experimental conditions. Administration of CCl₄ to the normal rats caused a significant increase (P < 0.01) in liver total lipid contents (by 1.16 fold). Treatments of 10, 20, 30 and 40 mg abhrak bhasma simultaneously with CCl₄ to the rats counteracted and showed progressive reduction in total lipid contents towards normal level; more significantly noted with 30 mg and 40 mg doses (P < 0.01) which showed significantly lowered lipid contents and brought to normal levels. Treatment of similar doses of SiO₂ simultaneously with CCl₄ administration showed similar trend of response as noted with abhrak bhasma treatments but with some variation with 30 mg and 40 mg doses that showed high contents with low significance than observed in normal rat. In kidney, increase (P < 0.05) in total lipid contents was noted with CCl₄ administration (by 1.16 fold); which was progressively counteracted by abhrak bhasma treatments and brought it to normal level with all

the doses. Minimum required dose to achieve normal levels was 20 mg. Treatments of 10 and 20 mg SiO₂ doses showed similar response as observed with abhrak bhasma treatments with low turnover. But 30 mg and 40 mg doses of SiO₂ treatments tend to increase total lipid contents; significance being (P < 0.05) with 40 mg dose. Administration of 3.0 ml CCl₄/ kg body wt; exhibited significant increase (P < 0.001) in total lipids levels in serum (1.44 fold). Treatments of various doses of abhrak bhasma against CCl₄ induced toxicity; showed progressive reduction in the total lipid contents of serum and achieved normal levels. Similar trend was noted with the administration of various doses of SiO₂ to the CCl₄ intoxicated rats; which have showed progressive reductions in serum total lipid contents and maintained normal levels. Especially with 30 mg dose which showed significant efficacy (P < 0.01) as compared to other SiO₂ doses. These observations suggest that CCl₄ administration to rats caused a significant increase in total lipids in liver and serum; which indicates the fatty degeneration of liver and hence alterations in functions of liver¹². Increase in CCl₄ induced total lipid contents seems to be mainly due to the increased mobilization of free fatty acids from peripheral depots⁵. Treatment with abhrak bhasma stimulates the recovery and protection from CCl₄ induced hepatic damage that reflects decrease of elevated level of total lipid contents in liver. The lipid lowering effects are shown with more efficiency by abhrak bhasma than SiO₂. Kidney lipid contents were altered within the normal range with abhrak bhasma which is in agreement with earlier studied kidney functions¹², lipid peroxidation and glutathione^{8,9} alterations. The reduced levels of total lipid mediated through abhrak bhasma, SiO₂ treatments may be due to reduced level of triglycerides, cholesterol, phospholipids and lipoproteins in CCl₄ treated rats⁵. Recovery and protection of liver and kidney functions¹² are indicators of membrane integrity so also the membrane dependent lipid metabolisms. Abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ effectively reduced the lipid levels altered by CCl₄ metabolism. The effect exerted by abhrak bhasma was more pronounced than SiO₂. Since abhrak bhasma assume to content high levels of silica since it is derived from mica⁹. The similar changes observed with SiO₂ can be credited to silica content. Kidney lipid contents though influenced by CCl₄/ abhrak bhasma/ SiO₂ (with combined or solo administration), they were in normal range. This indicates CCl₄/ abhrak bhasma/ SiO₂ in single doses hardly affect lipid contents and lipid metabolism in kidney. Alterations in serum are indicative of transporting status of total lipids. Since kidney lipid contents are not influenced by single doses of CCl₄/ abhrak bhasma/ SiO₂, the transporting status of total lipids is indicator of alterations occurring in lipids of liver alone and that also mainly from centrolobular region. Which shows accumulation of lipids⁴. As primary response of abhrak bhasma and SiO₂ with CCl₄ retards the fat accumulation which seems to be effect of silica either in the form of abhrak bhasma/ SiO₂. (Table 1 and 2)

Alterations in phospholipid contents

Phospholipids are the structural components of bio membranes and maintain the structural integrity of the hepatocellular membrane³. They play role in the molecular organization and the functional activity of membrane bound enzymes³. They are more susceptible to CCl₄ induced free radical CCl₃ leading to lipid peroxidation than other lipid classes⁵ and alter the cellular structure of membrane bound enzymes by changing the membrane phospholipids and fatty acid composition. Thus the alterations are significant indicators of hepatocellular/kidney functions. The phospholipid content in normal rat liver was 1624.21 ± 94.51 mg/100 g tissue, which was not altered significantly by all the studied doses of abhrak bhasma in single dose experimental schedule of 24 h. Treatments of all doses of SiO₂ to the normal rat did not alter the phospholipid contents in normal rat. Thus abhrak bhasma or SiO₂ do not influence phospholipids of liver, kidney and serum of normal rats as single dose. Significant increase (p < 0.01) in the phospholipid content in serum and decrease in that of liver in CCl₄ administered rat was observed (28.02 %). These altered phospholipid contents were recovered/ protected to near normal level by abhrak bhasma in CCl₄ treated rats by 10, 20, 30 and 40 mg doses. SiO₂ treatments also showed similar protective results by 10 and 20 mg doses; while phospholipid contents in liver and serum were normalized only by 30 and 40 mg SiO₂ doses. Kidney phospholipids though influenced the turnover, they are maintained in normal range either by abhrak bhasma or by SiO₂ treatment. Total protection of liver from fatty degeneration⁴ as observed in same experimental set up indicated membrane integrity of hepatocytes and hence that of liver functions. CCl₄ influenced increased serum phospholipid contents were progressively and significantly decreased by abhrak bhasma treatments and was maintained to the normal level. Thus all the doses of abhrak bhasma were equally potent to protect the normal phospholipids levels in serum. All doses of SiO₂ in CCl₄ intoxicated rats decreased phospholipid contents but 30 mg and 40 mg SiO₂ doses decreased phospholipid contents (by 22.09 % and 20.51 %) significantly (p < 0.05). Serum phospholipid levels increased by CCl₄ were protected by all the doses of SiO₂ except 10 mg dose. Thus abhrak bhasma (all the doses) and SiO₂ 20, 30 and 40 mg doses protected the serum phospholipids levels. Thus abhrak bhasma seems to be more potent having lowest effective dose of 10 mg. The results showed marked elevation in phospholipid contents in serum and decrease that of in liver of CCl₄ intoxicated rats. The decreased level of phospholipids in liver indicated the alteration and disturbance in the phospholipid metabolism after the administration of CCl₄. It can be directly related to the centrolobular necrotic region induced by CCl₄ where cellular membranes damage is evident⁴ in histological architecture. It may be positively correlated with the hepatic lipogenic enzyme activity or increase in phospholipase activity¹⁴. CCl₄ during biotransformation is known to generate CCl₃ which lead to fatty degeneration⁵. The phospholipids from liver cell membranes damaged by

CCl₃ released into blood stream by fatty degeneration resulted in rise of serum phospholipid contents. The considerable increase in the levels of phospholipids in liver in CCl₄ + abhrahk bhasma treated rats suggests that abhrahk bhasma protects the fatty degeneration evidenced by histological studies⁴ and hence integration hepatocyte membrane phospholipids. As stated earlier, abhrahk bhasma inhibits lipid peroxidation⁸, reducing CCl₃ production and hence membrane damage reduction leading to prevent the release of phospholipids. Thus alterations in liver and in serum are justified. Based on the above results it can be concluded that abhrahk bhasma possess hepatoprotective potency against CCl₄ toxicity. Results obtained with abhrahk bhasma were found to be more effective than those of SiO₂. A comparative histopathological study of liver and kidney from above mentioned different groups also supported the hepatoprotective efficacy of abhrahk bhasma⁴. Single doses of abhrahk bhasma viz. 10, 20, 30 and 40 mg given independently hardly influence phospholipid contents in normal rat liver, kidney and serum¹³. Same was true with SiO₂ doses. Against CCl₄ toxicity induced phospholipid contents the minimum protective dose for liver are 10 mg of abhrahk bhasma and SiO₂. Thus both the drugs are equally potent against single dose of CCl₄ as single dose. In protection of serum phospholipid levels induced by single dose of CCl₄; the minimum effective doses of abhrahk bhasma and SiO₂ differ. Abhrahk bhasma shows 10 mg minimum effective dose. For the same protective effects SiO₂ dose required is 20 mg. Thus it seems abhrahk bhasma is more potent as compared to SiO₂ against CCl₄ induced alterations in phospholipid content. But the histological architecture⁴ studied in similar dose schedules and experimental design showed hepatocytes hypertrophied which are adaptive alterations¹⁵⁻¹⁷ with 30 mg and 40 mg SiO₂ doses along with same alterations in periarterial region. This was not observed with the any of the abhrahk bhasma doses⁴. The differences in abhrahk bhasma and SiO₂ influence observed in histological alterations also supported by their free radical scavenging potency; where abhrahk bhasma is effective from 10mg dose onwards. While SiO₂ as 40 mg though showed tendency to scavenge free radicals but none of the doses showed full potency to scavenge CCl₄ induced free radicals⁸. Thus abhrahk bhasma seems to be more efficient than SiO₂ since it is not only maintaining phospholipids contents but also maintains the normal hepatic and kidney histological architecture⁴. Thus SiO₂ though it is positively modifying phospholipid metabolism in presence of CCl₄ and not influencing it in normal metabolism, it alters some histological appearances. Therefore abhrahk bhasma is more efficient than SiO₂. This also differentiates metabolism of not processed silica and processed silica by Shodhan and Maran used for the preparation of abhrahk bhasma as described in Ayurveda. This also differentiates role of silica as SiO₂ on different

metabolisms related with CCl₄ metabolisms. (Table 3 and 4)

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