# INFLUENCE OF TOAD PAROTID GLAND SECRETION FROM INDIAN TOAD (*BUFO MELANOSTICTUS*) IN DIABETIC RATS: AN EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE OF P-GLYCOPROTEIN INHIBITION

#### **ABSTRACT:**

The study was conducted to improve the bioavailability of glyburide(GLY) with Indian Toad Parotid Gland Secretions (TPGS). P-glycoprotein is an efflux transporter cellular protein and effluxes xenobiotics and drugs to the outside of cells, leads to decreased concentration of drugs at the target site. P-gp inhibitors essentially increase the levels and there is a need of new P-gp inhibitors to develop for the improvement of the oral bioavailability of P-gp substrate drugs because the existing inhibitors have serious side effects. This study was aimed to describe the Pgp inhibitory action from TPGS, Bufo melanostictus, in diabetic rats by using glyburide as p-gp substrate. Acute toxicity studies showed 300mg/kg as toxic dose and 50mg/kg was selected as study dose according to OECD 423. LCHRMS study conducted to identify the new compounds. Apparent permeability (Papp) was estimated by non-everted sac method (In Vitro) with rat jejunum and ileum to confirm the P-gp inhibitory activity of TPGS. In *in-vivo* protocol rats grouped into 4 groups (n=6), the first one is normal, second diabetic, third GLY 30mg/kg, and fourth group GLY+ TPGS, 50mg/kg for single and multiple dose treatment study. Spectrometric analysis revealed the new compounds, and TPGS P<sub>app</sub>(X10<sup>-6</sup> cm/s) in rat jejunum and ileum was significantly increased from 2.0±0.1 to 6.4±0.3 and 1.2±0.3 to 3.0±0.3 respectively. Blood glucose concentration in rats more than 250 mg/dl was considered as diabetic and in single, multiple dose interaction studies (SDI, MDI) the concentrations decreased from 140.0±2.0 and 122.0±2.2 μg/dl respectively. The pharmacokinetic parameters like C<sub>max</sub>, Cl and in SDI, MDI and significant increase of C max and AUC t and decrease of Cl was observed. The above results conclude that TPGS had the potential P-gp inhibitory activity and improved the oral bioavailability of GLY significantly. Subsequent experimentation is warranted to chemically characterize the compounds from TPGS as potential new P-gp inhibitors.

Key words: ToxinousTPGS, LCHRMS, Bufo melanostictus, P-gp, Glyburide.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Inoculation of venom system was not developed by the toads, even though they are treated as venomous animals as they secrete highly toxic venomous emanations from their skin. Toads contain alveolar mucus and acinar granular glands with different types of functions [1, 2]. Frogs and toads skin, glandular secretions contain bioactive host-defensive molecules from Australian anurans and, there are several types of glands available for the secretion of these compounds [3-5]. These natural compounds with biological activities like anti bacterial, anti inflammatory and anti cancer activities [6-11] are reported surprisingly there are no studies on Indian Toad secretions. Therefore, as these secretions are unique resources for novel drug development we conducted this study for the first time with Indian Toads. The secretions from mucus gland maintain to make the skin slippery as well as prevent its mechanical damage by some materials [12, 13] and mucus control the body-surface PH and also maintain skin moisture [14]. These secretions are bacteriostatic, can trap microbial and fungal pathogens and also protect from adverse effect of prolonged contact with water and slow down evaporative loss of water. Xenopuslaeris, a type of African frog contain different types of mucins with different functions [15]. The well developed parotid glands in toads are present in *Buffo* and some other species on the skin and secrets mucins[16]. Surprisingly different types of compounds produced from toads and frogs like peptides, steroids alkaloids and many other uncharacterized toxins with variety of biological activities [17, 18]. Toxins from toads and frogs secretions proved to possess cardiotonic, micotoxic and neurotoxic, vascoconstrictive, hypotensive, hallucinogenic effects along with their harmful effects to their predators. Up on a systematic investigations of these secretions will be helpful to develop new chemical entities [19]. Permeability glycoprotein (P-g) is a protein that efflux out the drugs and chemicals to the outside of cell likely to be present on all cells acts as a defense mechanism against harmful substances and is ABCB1 gene encoded [20, 21].

Many of the drugs are P-gp substrates, because of its effect their concentrations inside the cell not maintained and if any P-gp inhibitor is given in combination, it will elevate the intracellular

concentration. P-gp inhibiting drugs increase the concentration of the drugs those are substrates of P-gp and thus enhance the pharmacological and/or toxicological effects of the substrate drugs. Glyburide (GLY) is a P-gp substrate, and Indian toad parotid gland secretion (TPGS) if exhibits P-gp inhibitory effect, there may be the possibility to alter the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and improve the oral bioavailability of GLY.

#### 2. MATERIALS and METHODS

Acetonitrile (Merck, Mumbai), methanol (Merck, Mumbai), Glyburide (Sigma Aldrich, Bangalore), Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (Sigma Aldrich, Bangalore), Gliclazide (Aurobindo labs), Streptozotocin (Sigma Aldrich, Bangalore), Glucose kit (GOD-POD-KIT) (Viola, Mumbai). Equipments used are, HPLC (contains C18 column coated with 5micron particles), Biofuge (Heraeus instrument- Germany), Micropipettes (Torsons), Micro centrifuge tubes (Tarsons), Butterfly catheter, Ultra sonicator. LC HRMS (Instrument: Agilent Technologies, Modal: 0530).

#### 2.1. Animals

Wistar rats procured from Mahaveer Enterprises, Hyderabad, acclimatized then used, with standard diet and water *ad libitum*, and 12 hours fasting was maintained before the start of the study. The protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee, Kakatiya University, Warangal (IAEC/15/UCPSc/KU/2018).

# 2.2. Sample collection and Preparation:

Adult live Indian Toads (40-50 grams), Order— *Anura*, family — *Bufonidae*, genera — Bufo, sub genara—*melanostictus* were collected from the near vicinity of Kakatiya University, Warangal. *Bufonidae* includes more than 300 species the family includes 25 genera and the above selected species was authenticated by Zoology professor YV from our university. TPGS was freshly obtained by compressing the parotid glands by milking process (it oozes out as white mass) with the help of forceps and hands aseptically from living individual's secretions were

collected on the surface of glass petri plates and its containing dried extract was used in the study [22-24] and the Toads were released to live.

## 2.3. Spectrometric analysis study by LC HRMS:

The aliquots of TPGS was dissolved in methanol and subjected for LCHRMS study mass spectra were recorded by Electron Spray Ionization -ESI [25] in the positive ion mode by direct infusion. The Q-TOF MS used a quadrupole (four parallel rods arranged in a square formation), a collision cell, and a time of light unit to produce spectra. Lighter ions accelerate faster down the flight tube to the detector thus determining the ions mass-to charge ratios.

## 2.4. Toxicity assessment:

TPGS suspended in water and toxicity findings were done in accordance with OECD guidelines in female Wistar rats. Animals separated to (4 groups, n=3) normal saline treated group, TPGS 5mg/ kg/p.o treated group, TPGS 50mg/kg/p.o treated group and TPGS 300 mg/kg/p.o treated group, then observed for the possible toxicity up to 48 h. The mortality was noted to determine lethal dose of TGPS [26-28].

## 2.5.In Vitro study

#### Non-everted sac method:

Rats were grouped up to 4 (n=4), after overnight fasting intestines were isolated under anesthesia by using thiopental sodium (50mg/kg/i.p), and ice-cold saline was used to flush. The rats were exsanguinated, the jejunum and ileum portions isolated and a segment of each was cut into a length of 10cm for preparation of the sac for the experiment. First group intestinal sacs were loaded with 500µg/mL of fexofenadine (FEX) a P-gp substrate alone and, second FEX+Verapamil (VER) as inhibitor, third FEX+TPGS 1000 µg/ml and fourth FEX+TPGS1500 µg/ml was included in the sacs for the study protocol and apparent permeability coefficient (P<sub>app</sub>) was calculated [29].

## 2.6.In Vivo Study:

Rats were subjected for induction of diabetes and more than 200mg/dl glucose concentration was selected as diabetic [30].

## Pharmacodynamic and Pharmacokinetic interaction study in diabetic rats:

Animals were grouped into four different sets like first as normal control, second set as diabetic control, third set as glyburide treated and fourth set as GLY+ TPGS treated. The treatment is given for seven days; the interaction study was done with initial day as single dose and on seventh day as multiple dose study. At the pre set time points blood sampling was done from tail vein (0, 0.5,1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 24h). at predetermined time intervals between by using butterfly catheter (23GB). Serum was separated by centrifugation. Blood glucose concentrations were estimated by GOD-POD method [31], and pharmacokinetic parameters estimated.

#### 2.7. Pharmacokinetics evaluation:

## HPLC description:

Reverse Phase HPLC with LC-10AT 2 pumps, UV/VIS detector, CBML-20A, RP C-18 column by using LC solutions software. Statistical data was done with the help of WinNonlin latest software and Graph Pad Prism software version 8.4.2 and the values are explained as mean±SD.

#### 3. RESULTS

## 3.1. Spectrometric analysis study by LC HRMS:

The presence of parotid gland is depicted in the Fg1A. The following mass followed by the proposed molecular formula was obtained from LCHRMS studies with TPGS. They are 125.9864 ([C4 H N2 O S]+H)+, 160.0752 ([C10 H9 N O]+H)+, 219.1488 ([C13 H18 N2 O]+H)+, 261.0430 ([C9 H6 N7 O S]+H)+, 363.1107 ([C21 H16 N O5]+H)+, 437.2082 ([C15 H31 Cl N9 O2 S]+H)+, 539.1929 ([C21 H24 N13 O3 S]+H)+, 579.2921 ([C30 H38 N6 O6]+H)+, 643.3939 ([C33 H46 N12 O2]+H)+, 685.4066 ([C40 H59 Cl N O6]+H)+ Fig 1B-D.

# 3.2. Toxicity Assessment:

The mortality was observed with TPGS 300mg/kg and maximally tolerated dose (MTD) was decided as 50mg/kg/p.o. Table 1.

Table 1. Effect of TPGS of Bufo melanostictus for toxicity assessment.

Groups	Treatment	Sign of toxicity (TS/NS)	Mortality (D/S)
Normal control	Normal saline	0/3	0/3
Parotid gland extract	5mg/kg	0/3	0/3
Parotid gland extract	50mg/kg	0/3	0/3
Parotid gland extract	300mg/kg	2/3	2/3

## 3.3.In Vitro Study:

TPGS  $P_{app}(X10^{-6} \text{ cm/s})$  in rat jejunum and ileum was significantly increased from  $2.0\pm0.1$  to  $6.4\pm0.3$  and  $1.2\pm0.3$  to  $3.0\pm0.3$  respectively Fig.2A.

## 3.4.In Vivo Study:

Blood glucose concentration in rats more than 250 mg/dl was considered as diabetic and in single, multiple dose interaction studies (SDI, MDI) the concentrations decreased from 140.0 $\pm$ 2.0 and 122.0 $\pm$ 2.2 µg/dl respectively Fig 2 B. The pharmacokinetic parameters like  $C_{max}$ , Cl and in SDI, MDI significant increase of C  $_{max}$  and AUC  $_{t}$  and decrease of Cl was noticed.  $C_{max}$  of Gly was increased from 1.725 $\pm$ 0.299 µg/mL to 4.300 $\pm$ 1.160 µg/mL, 7.600 $\pm$ 1.071 µg/mL with Gly +TPGS single dose and multiple dose treatment. Clearance  $_{of}$  Gly was decreased from 3536.9 $\pm$ 277.72 mL/h/kg to 1130.409 $\pm$ 311.1 mL/h/kg, 576.042 $\pm$ 149.991 mL/h/kg with Gly +TPGS single dose and multiple dose treatment Table 2.

Table 2: GLY and GLY along with TPGS pharmacokinetic parameters with diabetes.

Pk parameter	GLY (SDT)	GLY (MDT)	GLY + TPGS (SDT)	GLY + TPGS (MDT)
$C_{max} (\mu g/mL)$	1.725±0.299	3.750±0.810**	4.300±1.160	7.600±1.071**
$T_{max}(h)$	4.000±0.000	4.000±0.000	$4.000\pm0.000$	$4.000\pm0.000$
$T_{1/2}(h)$	2.028±0.327	3.951±2.420	2.953±1.270	3.612±1.316
$AUC_t$ (h. $\mu g/mL$ )	7.263±0.754	$18.056 \pm 4.561$	$21.019\pm5.358^{**}$	$36.044\pm3.549^{**}$
$AUC_{\infty}$ (h. $\mu g/mL$ )	8.519±0.626	$28.081 \pm 7.665$	27.850±6.421**	$54.497 \pm 12.490^{**}$
CL (mL/h/kg)	3536.9±277.72	1146.5±387.9	1130.409±311.1***	$576.042 \pm 149.991^*$
Vd (mL/kg)	10395.4±2158.065	5855.008±2245.70	4638.1±1692.73*	2804.3±612.884
Kel (h <sup>-1</sup> )	0.349±0.057	$0.219\pm0.102$	$0.262 \pm 0.086$	$0.221 \pm 0.111$
MRT (hr)	3.964±0.087	4.181±0.206	4.301±0.272	4.160±0.381

 $GLY=\ Glyburide,\ TPGS=Toad\ Parotid\ Glandular\ Secretion.\ Mean\ \pm SD:\ ****\ p<0.001;\ **\ p<0.05\ tested\ to\ GLY;\ SDT\ (Single\ dose\ treated);\ MDT\ (Multi\ dose\ treated).\ One\ way\ ANOVA\ (Dennett\ test)\ was\ used\ for\ statistical\ analysis.$ 

## 4. DISCUSSION:

Diabetes needs lifelong treatment for the optimal blood glucose concentration to maintain and if not maintained, it may result in other several disorders which affect the major organ systems in the body. Frog skin glands proved to have many potential compounds with pharmacological effects [32, 33]. LC HRMS study showed the presence of new chemical entities with vide range of mass starting from 100 -800. In in-vitro study FEX P-gp substrate [34], and TPGS as testing inhibitor were used with jejunum and ileum, in order to confirm the P-gp inhibitory potential. This study evidenced that FEX, Papp was increased with VER as P-gp inhibitor [35] and also with different concentrations of TPGS on jejunum and ileum indicates the P-gp inhibitory effect of TPGS. Current study was undertaken to determine anti diabetic potential of compounds derived from TPGS by using GLY as a P-gp substrate and to investigate the influence of TPGS on the absorption kinetics of GLY in STZ induced diabetic model. The enhanced absorption of GLY was due to P-gp inhibition by TPGS. Enhanced oral bioavailability by TPGS is related to the inhibition of P-pg substrate drugs by P-gp inhibitors [36, 37]. TPGS enhanced the oral pharmacokinetics of GLY suggesting that combined use may reduce the efflux of GLY. This indicates that natural compounds from Indian Toad may inhibit the P-gp driven GLY pumping outside the cell to some extent.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

TPGS was found to be lethal at 300mg/kg. Shown to have P-gp inhibitory activity and enhanced the oral bioavailability of GLY. These results conclude that TPGS is a good source of the new chemical compounds of scientific interest to develop novel P-gp inhibitors. Further studies are warranted to isolate pure compounds as new chemical entities with potential pharmacological activities.

This study gives the scope for further exploring the systematic isolation of new chemical compounds to explore the mechanism of action of TPGS and also their interactions with other Ppg substrate drugs.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of

knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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**Fig 1. A).** Courtesy. NUS <u>Wiki.nus</u>Web page. Identified Mass and probable Molecular formula range of TPGS B). 100-300, C).300-600, D).600-800.

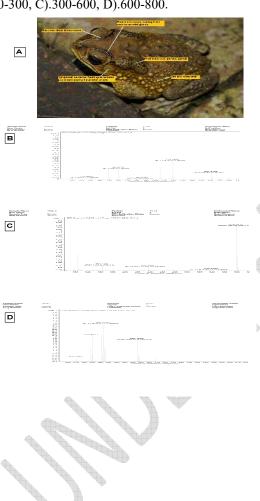
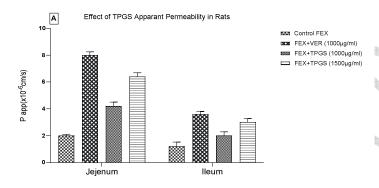


Fig.2 A. Effect of TPGS influence on  $P_{app}$  of FEX in rats and data represents (n=6). **B**). Estimation of blood glucose levels in diabetic rats with TPGS and GLY. SDT (single dose treated); MDT (multi dose treated) Statistical analysis was performed using Two way ANOVA (Bonferroni post test) with Mean $\pm$ Standard deviation.



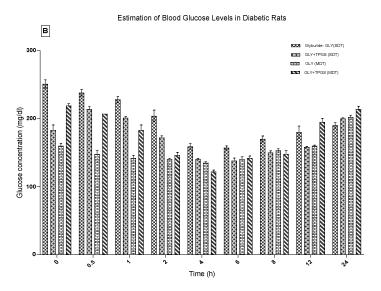


Fig. 3. A, B. Pharmacokinetic profiles of GLY and TPGS in rats for 7 days treatment. Each symbol with a bar represents the mean  $\pm$  S.D (n=6).

