

# The antioxidant role of decaffeinated green coffee extract against rotenone induced parkinsonism in rats

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**Abstract-** Caffeine offered to have anti-cancer, neuroprotective, anti-atherosclerosis, renoprotective and hepatoprotective properties due to their mitochondrial protective, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-apoptotic functions. But it is reported adverse effect, so the present study aimed to study the neuroprotective role of decaffeinated green coffee extract (dGCE) rotenone induced animal model of PD by analysing TBARS and antioxidant such as SOD, catalase, GPx and GSH. Rotenone injected rat showed enhanced levels of TBARS and diminished levels and activities GSH and SOD, catalase and GPx. The study confirms the neuroprotective/antioxidant property of dGCE mainly due to the presence of chlorogenic acid (CGA) and other components of the extract.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Coffee is one among the frequently consumed beverages globally and its annual intake has been increased to ~500 billion cups/year [1]. Low or moderate coffee intake offered protection against the risk of Parkinson's disease (PD), Alzheimer's disease (AD), anti-analgesic agent, obesity, tachycardia, increase of blood pressure, anxiety, insomnia, metabolic disorders including type 2 diabetes and various forms of cancer as indicated by

several epidemiologic studies [2,3,4]. The pharmacological activities of coffee depend upon the factors such as alcohol consumption, ethnicity, smoking, gender and mainly the metabolism of caffeine [5]. The beneficiary role of caffeine is mainly depends upon its inhibitory action against adenosine receptor and interference with cholinergic, serotonin, opioid, and  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid receptors [6].

However, more consumption of coffee may leads to hypokalemia, sleep disorders and cardiac diseases [7, 8, 9]. Decaffeination process is employed by soaking unroasted green coffee beans in several organic solvents before the roasting process. During this process the content of the caffeine in the coffee is reduced from 2.1% to 0.02-0.3% [10]. About 10% of the entire coffee consumers is changed into the habit of intaking decaffeinated coffee [11]. Green coffee extract becomes a potent source of chlorogenic acid (CGA) during the decaffeination process by eliminating the adverse reactions of caffeine [12, 13]. Toxicological studies indicated that there is no evidence on adverse reactions of dGCE. The potent antioxidant capacity of dGCE belongs to the levels of phenolic substances particularly CGA that is reported to have both in vitro and in vivo antioxidant properties [14]. Moreover it possesses other pharmaceutical activities such as antidiabetic, anti-hyperlipidimic, anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective properties [15, 16, 17, 18].

Parkinson's disease is the common neurodegenerative disorder that is characterized by degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the brain resulting in the symptoms such as hypokinesia, akinesia, neurographia, bradykinesia and tremor. Oxidative stress is mainly correlated with other pathological processes such as excitotoxicity, inflammation, nitric oxide toxicity, mitochondrial dysfunction and apoptosis that are the contributors of dopaminergic neuronal degeneration in PD [19]. There is always a debate arises between the scientist regarding whether the oxidative stress causes or it itself a outcome of, these pathological events. Oxidative stress was estimated by performing the assay of thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) in terms of lipid peroxidation product and enzymatic antioxidants such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (GPx) and catalase and the levels of non enzymatic antioxidant like reduced

glutathione (GSH). Increased levels of TBARS and GSH and activities of enzymatic antioxidants were reported in experimental models of PD and in patients [20, 19].

The golden standard drug for PD is L-DOPA which, provides the symptomatic relief and its prolonged usage induces harsh adverse effects that worsens the course of the disease. Numerous pharmacological agents such as DA agonists calcium antagonists, MAO-B inhibitors, NMDA antagonists, glutamate release inhibitors, nitric oxide syntheses inhibitors, sulfhydryl drugs, dimethyl thiourea and immunosuppressants along with combination of L-DOPA was reported to offer neuroprotection against experimental model of PD with fewer side effects. Another important therapeutic implications is the usage of natural plant polyphenols which is reported to enter into the BBB and offer the neuroprotection owing to its iron chelating, mitochondrial protective, radical scavenging, anti-apoptotic and anti-inflammatory properties [21, 22]. As the anti-parkinsonic role of dGCE is not investigated till now the current experiment is designed. Numerous biochemical and pathological adverse processes such as oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, inflammation and apoptosis are reported to be involved in cause and progression of PD [23]. The concept of oxidative stress and antioxidants may be directly or indirectly involved in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease [24, 25, 26].

The aetiology of PD may arise owing to the exposure to infectious agents, exogenous or endogenous neurotoxins, mitochondrial dysfunction or genetic basis [24, 26]. Environmental exposure of pesticides and herbicides to humans leads to sporadic PD. Specifically, rotenone, paraquat and maneb have been associated with the PD incidence [27, 28]. Rotenone is reported to cause ROS generation, ATP depletion and cell death in neurons due to its inhibitory action on mitochondrial complex I. Rotenone toxicity mimics many pathological hallmarks of PD, including loss of dopaminergic neurons in SN and formation of Lewy bodies which is presumably due to oxidative damage, mitochondrial dysfunction and disruption of axonal transport [29, 30].

## **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 Measurement of GSH**

The method used by Jollow et al. was used to measure the amount of GSH in brain homogenate (1974). The homogenate of brain tissue was centrifuged at 16,000 g for 15 min. at 4 °C. DTNB (dithiobis-2-nitrobenzoic acid) was dissolved in 4 ml of ice-cold, 0.1 mM solution in 1 M phosphate buffer, and the supernatant (0.5 ml) was added (pH 8). In a spectrophotometer, the optical density was read at 412 nm. As a standard, a calibration curve was developed using reduced glutathione [31].

### **2.2 Measurement of GPx**

The GSH reductase solution (10 units/ml), 100 µl of 0.1M GSH, 100 µl of 2mM NADPH, 100 µl of 1M Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 650 µl of distilled water, 10 µl of 7mM tert-butyl hydroperoxide, and 10 µl of brain supernatant made up the GPx assay mixture. At 340 nm, spectrophotometry was used to monitor the oxidation of NADPH at 37 °C. The quantity of GPX needed to oxidise 1 µmol of NADPH per minute was used to define one unit of activity [32].

### **2.3 Measurement of TBARS**

As discussed previously, the activity of TBARS was determined [33]. In an essence, tissue extracts were incubated with 0.2 ml of phenyl methosulphate at 37 °C in a metabolic water bath shaker. 0.4 ml of 5% tricarboxylic acid and 0.4 ml of 0.67% thiobarbituric acid were added after 1 hour of incubation. After centrifuging the reaction mixture for 15 minutes at 4000 rpm, the supernatant was heated for 10 minutes. Samples were read at 535 nm after cooling. Nanomole of TBARS formed/h/g tissue was used to express the rate of lipid peroxidation.

### **2.4 Measurement of Catalase**

1.95 ml of phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 7.4), 1 ml of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (0.09 M), and 0.05 ml of PMS were added. Calculations of catalase activity were done using the formula nmol H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> consumed minutes/mg protein at 240 nm [35].

## 2.5 Measurement of SOD

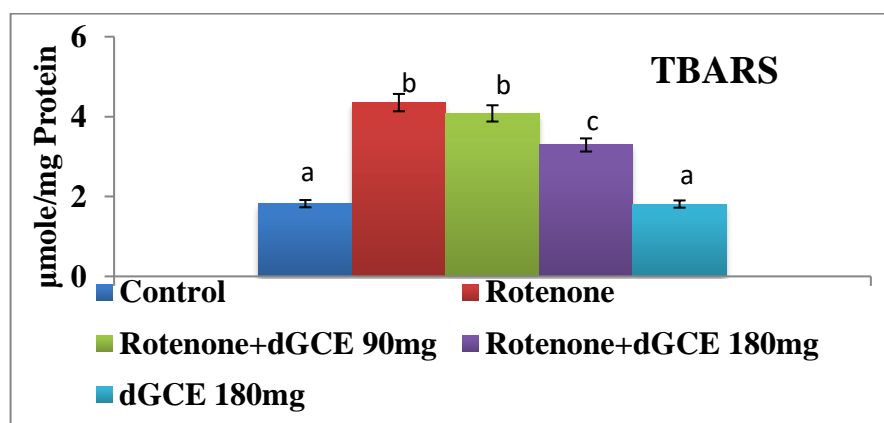
Xanthine and xanthine oxidase are utilised as a superoxide producer and Nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) is used as a superoxide indicator in an indirect inhibition experiment to measure the activity of superoxide dismutase. 20  $\mu$ L of xanthine oxidase and 960  $\mu$ L of a 50 mM sodium carbonate buffer (pH 10.2) containing 0.1 mM xanthine, 0.025 mM NBT, and 0.1 mM EDTA were added to 20  $\mu$ L of PMS. By using spectrophotometry, changes in absorbance were seen at 560 nm. Units/min/mg protein was used to express the activity [35].

## 3. RESULTS

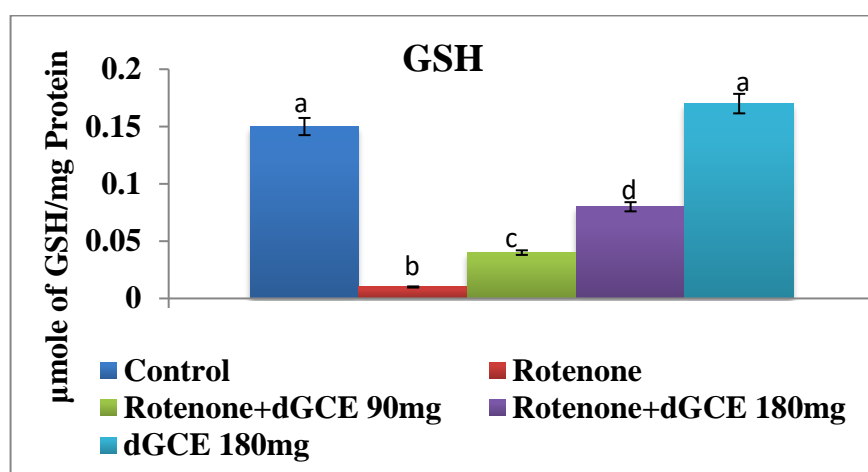
The nigral levels of TBARS and non-enzymatic antioxidants like GSH and the activities of enzymatic antioxidants such as SOD, catalase, and GPx were quantified in control, rotenone and/or dGCE treated rats to assess the antioxidant effect of dGCE.

### 3.1 Levels of lipid peroxidation in the rotenone induced rat

In the rotenone treated rats, the levels of TBARS and GSH were enhanced and diminished significantly as compared to control animals. The co-administration of dGCE in rotenone injected rats significantly diminished and enhanced the levels of TBARS and GSH levels as compared to rotenone alone injected rats. There is no significant alterations found in the levels of TBARS and GSH between the dGCE alone administered and control rats (Fig 1 and 2).



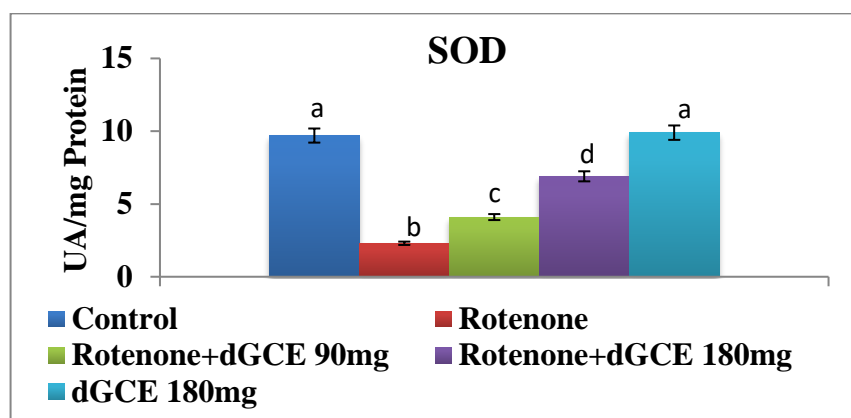
**Fig. 1** demonstrates the changes in the levels of TBARS in SN of control and experimental rats. Data are shown as mean $\pm$ SEM for six rats in each group. Values not sharing common alphabet differed significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) with each other.



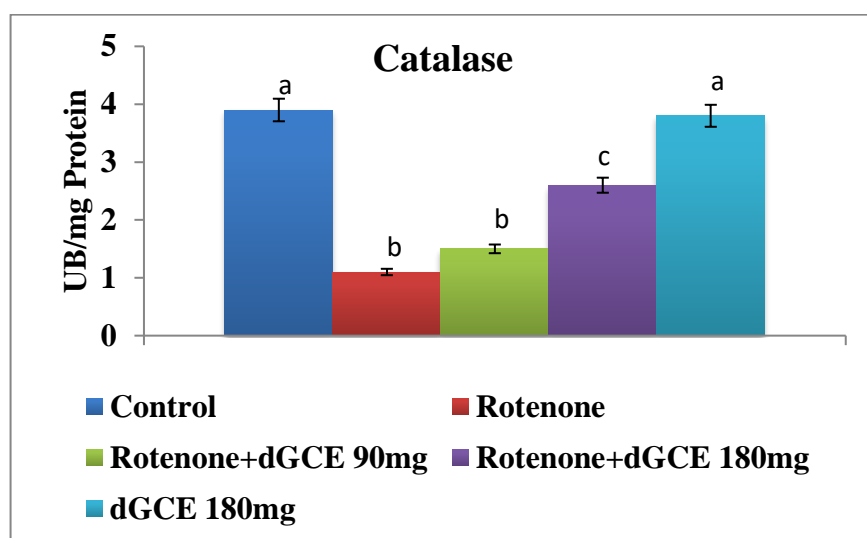
**Fig. 2** illustrates the changes in the level of GSH in SN of control and experimental rats. Data are shown as mean $\pm$ SEM for six rats in each group. Values not sharing common alphabet differed significantly ( $p<0.05$ ) with each other.

### 3.2 Levels of antioxidant enzymes in the rotenone induced rat

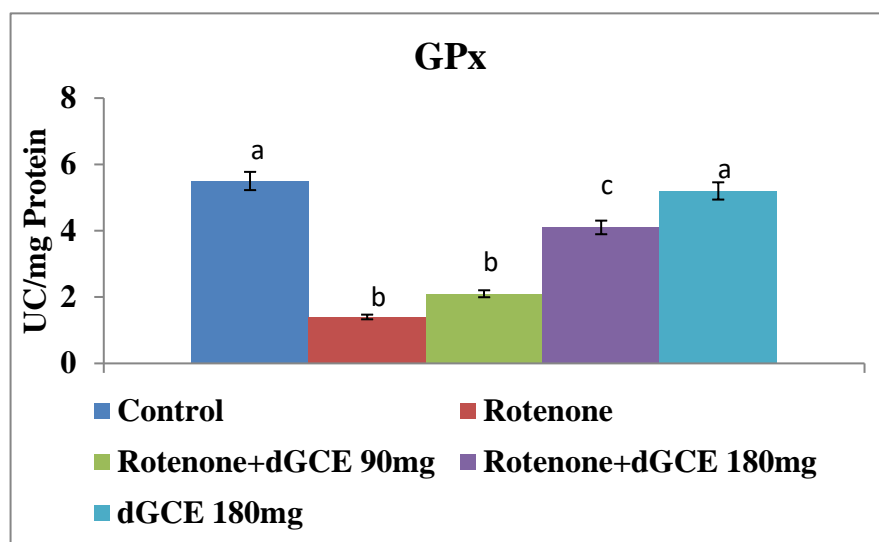
In the rotenone treated rats, the activities of SOD, catalase and GPx were significantly diminished as compared to control animals. The co-administration of dGCE to rotenone injected rats enhanced the activity of enzymatic antioxidants as compared to rotenone alone injected rats. There is no significant alteration found in the activities of enzymatic antioxidant between the dGCE alone administered and control rats (Fig 3, 4 and 5).



**Fig. 3** indicates the changes in the activity of SOD in SN of control and experimental rats. Data are shown as mean±SEM for six rats in each group. Values not sharing common alphabet differed significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) with each other.



**Fig. 4** shows the changes in the activity of catalase in SN of control and experimental rats. Data are shown as mean±SEM for six rats in each group. Values not sharing common alphabet differed significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) with each other.



**Fig. 5** demonstrates the changes in the activity of GPx in SN of control and experimental rats. Data are shown as mean $\pm$ SEM for six rats in each group. Values not sharing common alphabet differed significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) with each other.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

In this study, rotenone treatment significantly elevated the levels of TBARS and diminished the activities of enzymatic antioxidants such as SOD, catalase and GPx and decreased the levels of GSH, which corroborate with early finding [20]. Brain is cruelly prone to oxidant-antioxidant imbalance due to its (i) high metabolic activity (because of lengthy axons and millions of synapses that requires more energy [36] and utility of more oxygen (~ 1-3% of mitochondrial oxygen consumption being converted to ROS in normal conditions) [37], (ii) abundance of ROS-synthesising enzyme like as monoamine oxidase and tyrosine hydroxylase in SN [38] (iii) auto-oxidation of DA and its metabolites and (iv) presence of enhanced iron levels in the SN leading to the reduction of  $H_2O_2$  to form the highly reactive hydroxyl radical, ( $\cdot OH$ ), (v) depleted levels of antioxidants, (vi) enhanced protein folding found in endoplasmic reticulum and cellular  $Ca^{2+}$  levels and (vii) increased neuroinflammation leading to over/continuous activation of microglia resulting in more and unregulated discharge of ROS [39, 40]. In the post mortem studies particularly SN of PD patients, increased levels of



oxidative stress and iron concentrations [41], diminished level of GSH [42], enhanced lipid peroxidation products [43] and oxidation of DNA and protein [44] were found. Elevated levels of the lipid peroxidation products like malondialdehyde, TBARS and lipid hydro peroxide were found in the SN [45,46].

Rotenone is the potent inhibitor of mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC) complex I, thereby preventing the flow of electrons and leading to its accumulation in the ETC-I. As the majority of inhaled oxygen (20%) enters into brain, this accumulated electron directly may to O<sub>2</sub> and forms superoxide anion which is the most reactive ROS [47]. The ETC-I is the primary site of ROS synthesis because of its slight inhibition may leads to ROS formation [48]. If the electrons are stayed more than stipulated period they react vigorously with the abundant oxygen molecule and form the ROS molecule in the mitochondria. Enhanced production of ROS molecule leads to depletion of antioxidants which favours the lipid peroxidation process. Bashkatova et al., showed increased NO and TBARS level in the ST and cortex following the chronic rotenone treatment, which corroborates with our study [49]. The antioxidant activity of dGCE is greater than the roasted coffee extract [50, 51] because dGCE is reported to consist of more amount of phenolic acid [52]. The major phenolic compound found in dGCE is CGA which is responsible for its potent antioxidant activity [50]. Co-treatment of dGCE diminished the levels of rotenone induced TBARS levels due to the abundance of CGA, a potent antioxidant compound.

Lowered activities of SOD, catalase and GPx and the levels of GSH found in rotenone injected animals maybe because of bodily response to enhanced levels of ROS and its consequence lipid peroxidation process. Saravanan et al., demonstrated that diminished levels of GSH and activities of SOD, enhanced DA metabolism along with elevated levels of nitric oxide and TBARS which could contribute to dopaminergic neuronal death [53]. CGA consist of one carboxyl group and five active hydroxyl groups in which the phenolic OH group converts free radicals into hydrogen radicals. These hydrogen radicals and superoxide anions are eliminated by its potent antioxidant activity. Hu et al., 2006 reported the superoxide anions, hydrogen radicals and hydrogen peroxide scavenging potential of CGA [54]. The co-administration of dGCE

enhanced the activities of SOD, catalase and GPx and the levels of GSH. Another study by Kim et al., stated that there is no enhanced activity of SOD and catalase, were found in the wound of diabetic rats treated with CGA [55]. But in our study we found that the administration of dGCE enhances the levels and activities of SOD, catalase, GSH and GPx, may be due to the presence of other active components of dGCE. Therefore it is concluded that the antioxidant potential of dGCE found in rotenone induced PD rats were mainly due to the abundant presence of CGA and the other minor active components. This study concludes that the administration of dGCE i.e, even in the absence of caffeine showed potent neuroprotective effect due to the presence of other components.

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