

Anti-Leishmanial drug Pentostam induced histological changes to liver and kidney in male BALB/c wild mice

Corresponding Authors: Nouara Elazirg Elammari¹ and Ramadan Sariti²

1-Department of Parasitology of Medicine faculty-Benghazi University.

2-Biology Department, Libyan Academy, Misurara – Libya.

Email: nouara.elammari@uob.edu.ly

Article Received 02-09-2021 / Article Accepted 07-10-2021 / Article Published 10-10-2021

Abstract:

leishmaniasis still a complex disease of (sub) tropical regions of the world caused by *Leishmania* spp. Antimonial pentostam is an anti leishmaniasis drug which used medically and it is the primary drug employed against leishmaniasis in Libya. It has multiple acute and chronic adverse effects which can be minimized by using the lowest effective dose. This work aimed to investigate the histological changes in liver and kidney affected by different doses of the pentostam. Adult male of BALB/c wild mice were divided in four groups, 6 mice of each, and i.p. injected with 10mg/kg, 20mg/kg, and 40mg/kg pentostam in addition to a control group. After 28 therapeutic days and finishing the histological procedure to examine the collected tissue specimens, the obtained results of the liver tissue ranged between demonstrating cytoplasmic vacuoles, to hydropic degeneration, focal and hepatocytic necrosis, and lastly irregular area of hepatocytes with condensed pyknotic nuclei (hepatocyte necrosis). As well, the histological examination of kidney tissue ranged between demonstrating mild cloudy swelling (reversible hydropic degeneration), to showed stromal aggregates of inflammatory cells (nephritis), and lastly showed renal tubule casts and necrosis. In a final conclusion, There are a clear histological changes in liver and kidneys, had been seen in this study, which are dose-dependent changes.

Key words: leishmaniasis, antileishmaniasis drug, pentostam, histological examination of liver tissue, histological examination of kidney tissue.

Introduction:

leishmaniasis still a complex disease of (sub) tropical regions of the world caused by *Leishmania* spp. Which spread by sand fly (Ponte-Sucre, 2017). As a fact, chemotherapy is central to the control and management of leishmaniasis. Moreover, antimonials remain the primary drugs against different forms of leishmaniasis in several regions (Ponte-Sucre, 2017). However, Antimonial sodium stibogluconate (pentostam[®]) is an antileishmaniasis drug which used medically in a dose of 20mg sbv /kg per day for 28 days

daily (Abyot et al., 2005), it is the primary drug employed against leishmaniasis in Libya. This toxic antimonial compound has a narrow therapeutic window (Mitropoulos, 2010; WHO, 2017). After finishing the treatment, the patient should be evaluated to determine the drug outcomes. This evaluation should include the drug toxicity specially on the liver and kidneys. Moreover, as any drug, pentostam has multiple acute and chronic adverse effects which can be minimized by using the lowest effective dose. Therefore, awareness of the danger of using a

How to Cite:

Salem Ramadan Sariti²N. E. E. (2021). Anti-Leishmanial drug Pentostam induced histological changes to liver and kidney in male BALB/c wild mice. *International Invention of Scientific Journal*, 5(10), Page: 28-33. Retrieved from <https://iisj.in/index.php/iisj/article/view/350>



high dose should be taken in seriously. Considering that, we think it is of an important to investigate the tissue damage in liver and kidney which is related to pentostam side effects.

The aim: This work had been done to investigate the histological changes in liver and kidney affected by different doses of the anti-leishmanial drug Pentostam.

Materials and methods:

Drug for in-vivo administration: Sodium stibogluconate injection B.P. (pentostam®), equivalent to pentavalent antimonite each ml contains 100mg are available in 30ml bottle, which obtained from the Libyan Health ministry. Pentostam was prepared in to three concentrations 10mg/kg, 20mg/kg, and 40mg/kg and have been given intraperitoneally (i.p), each mouse received the determined dosage once a day in 1ml normal saline for 28 consecutive days.

The experimental animals: Adult male of BALB/c wild mice have been used weighting 25-39g at the age of 8-12 weeks. Animals were fed a standard laboratory diet and tap water during the experiment. After 2 weeks of adaptation, all animals were randomly divided into four groups of six mice of each: **Group 1:**Served as control group and received 1 ml i.p. of normal saline once daily. **Group 2:** Received 10 mg/kg/day, i.p. **Group 3:** Received 20 mg/kg/day, i.p. **Group 4:** Received 40 mg/kg, i.p.

Histological procedure: The selected tissue where R.t lobe of liver and longitudinal section from

both kidneys. Moreover, the collected liver and kidney specimens of each individual were fixed in 10% formalin to prevent degradation. Then specimens were dehydrated and embedded in paraffin before microtome sectioning. However, the sections undergo tissue processing and stained by PAS stain be examined by histopathological test. After all, the stained slides were observed at 100x magnification using a Nikon's brightfield compound Nikon microscope (Model YS100). The changes in lobular architecture, fatty changes, nuclear alterations and congestion of the sinusoids were evaluated in liver specimens. Similarly, changes in cytoarchitecture of the glomeruli, proximal and distal convoluted tubules and interstitium were evaluated in kidney specimens. The assessment have been done in Al-Saleem medical laboratory-Benghazi-Libya.

Results:

After 28i.p. pentostam therapeutic days and finishing the histological procedure of the collected tissue specimens, the obtained results were as the follows:

The liver tissue specimens:

Experimental group1: Histological examination of liver in the Control group displayed normal microstructure and showed the arrangement of hepatocytes in the form of anastomosing plates of one to two cell thickness. These plates are separated by blood sinusoids as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 1.

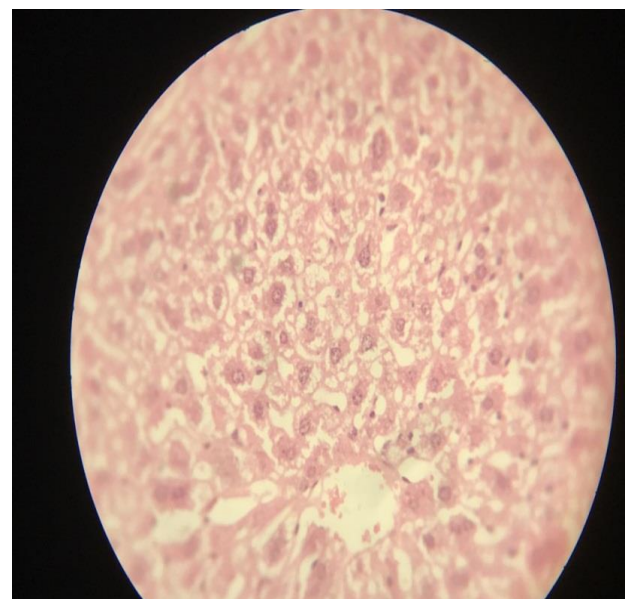
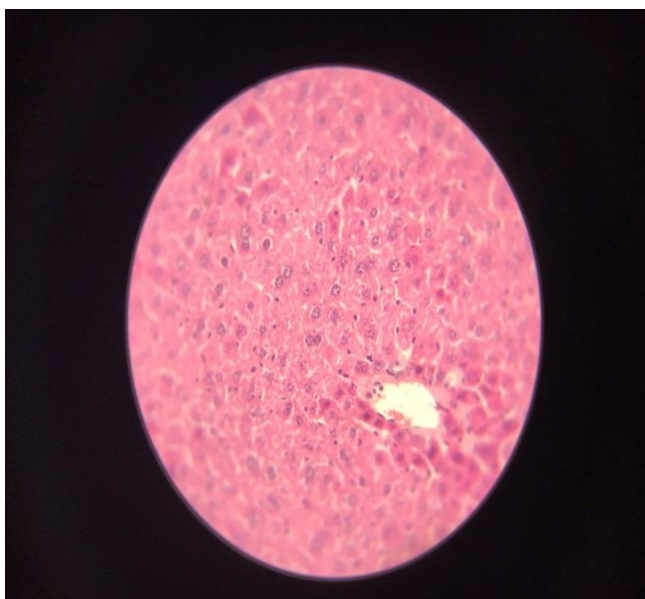
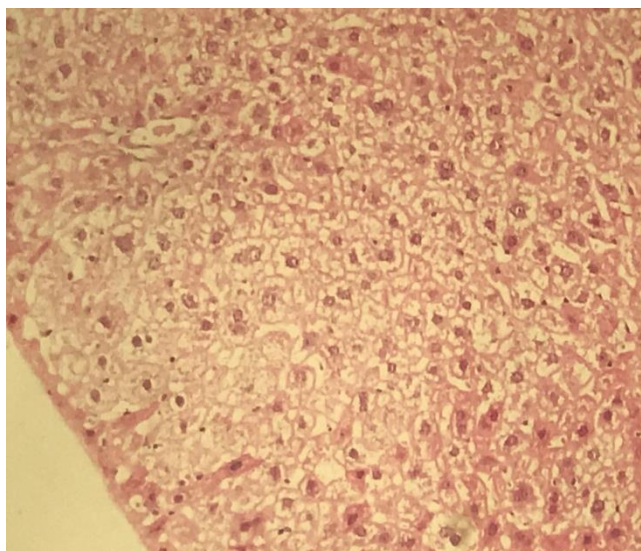


Fig. 1: Liver tissue specimen of the control group shows normal hepatocytes and sinusoids.

Fig. 2: Liver tissue specimen of the group 2 shows hydropic degeneration.

Experimental group 2: Histological examination of liver in group 2, received 10mg/kg which demonstrated cytoplasmic vacuoles (hydropic degeneration) as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 2.



Experimental group 3: Histological examination of liver in group 3, received 20mg/kg which shows hydropic degeneration, focal and hepatocytic necrosis as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 3.

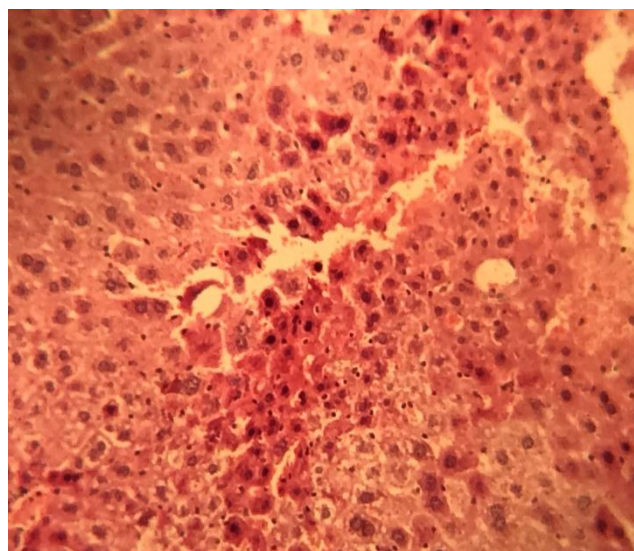


Fig. 3: Liver tissue specimen of the group 3 shows hydropic degeneration, focal and hepatocytic necrosis

Fig. 4: Liver tissue specimen of the group 4 shows irregular area of hepatocytes with condensed pyknotic nuclei

Experimental group 4: Histological examination of liver in group 4, received 40mg/kg shows irregular area of hepatocytes with condensed pyknotic nuclei (hepatocyte necrosis) as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 4.

The kidney tissue specimens:

Experimental group 1: Histological examination of kidney in the Control group showing morphology of renal unit composed of glomeruli and tubules as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 5.

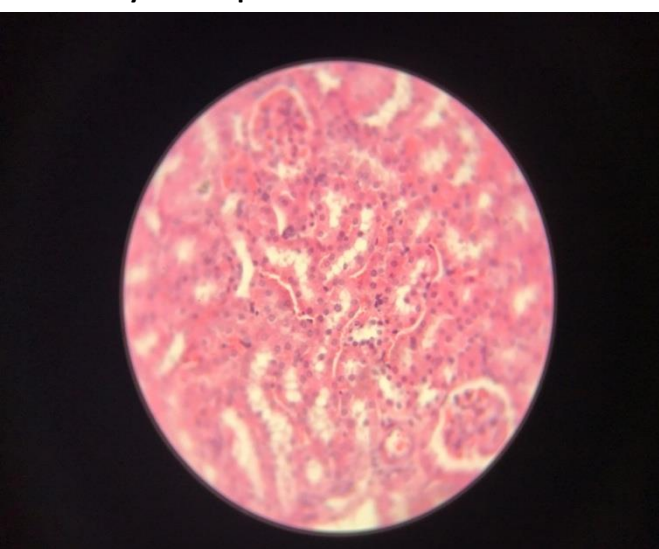
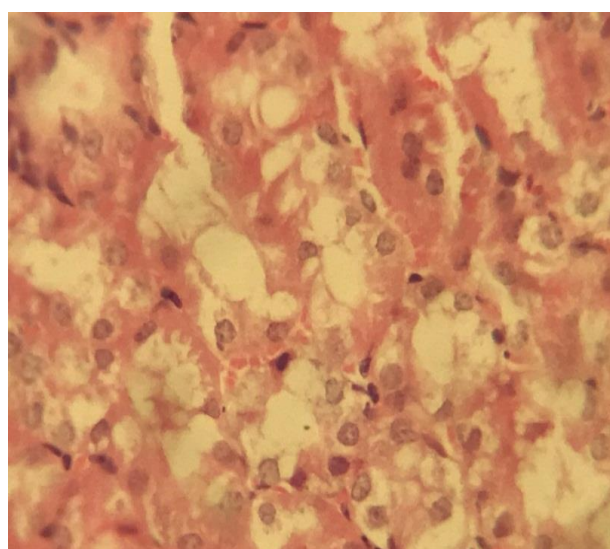
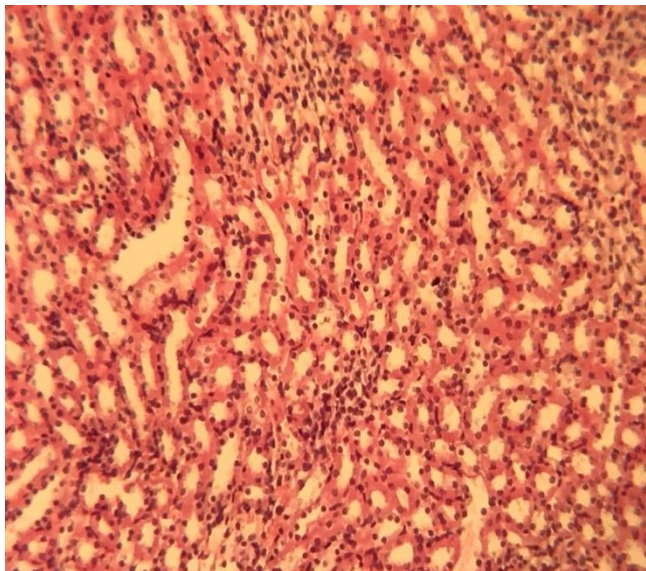


Fig. 5: Kidney tissue specimen of the control group shows morphology of renal unit composed of glomeruli and tubules

Fig. 6: Kidney tissue specimen of the group 2 shows mild cloudy swelling

Experimental group 2: Histological examination of kidney in group 2, received 10mg/kg which demonstrated mild cloudy swelling (reversible hydropic degeneration) as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 6.



Experimental group 3: Histological examination of kidney in group 3, received 20mg/kg showed stromal aggregates of inflammatory cells (nephritis) as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 7.

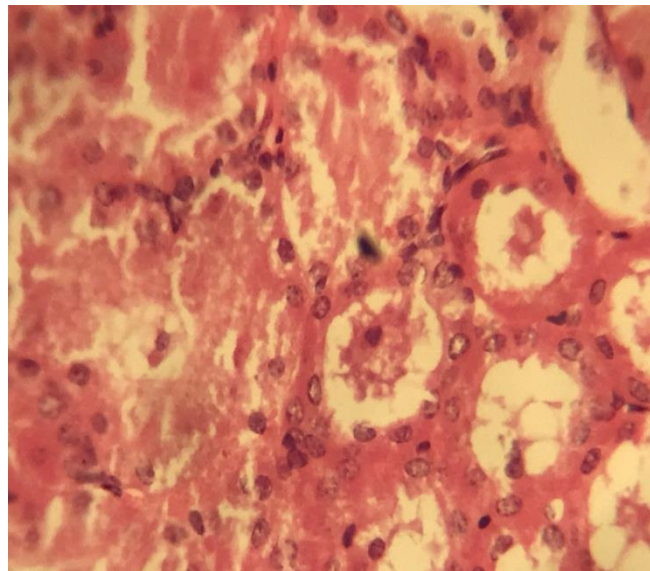


Fig. 7: Kidney tissue specimen of the group 2 shows inflammatory cell infiltrate (nephritis)

Fig. 8: Kidney tissue specimen of the group 2 shows renal tubule casts and necrosis

Experimental group 4: Histological examination of kidney in group 4, received 40mg/kg showed renal tubule casts and necrosis as it is illustrated by the photomicrograph in figure 8.

Discussion:

As an interested parasite, *Leishmania* has an intricate life cycle, and one of its developmental forms, the amastigote, dwells inside the host immunological cells, which adds to the challenge of accessing this parasite with specific drugs. Nevertheless, the used chemotherapy should kill the intracellular parasites (Garc et al., 2012). Therefore, the antileishmanial chemotherapy remains the best means available to cure the disease and it should contain toxic chemicals to kill the intracellular *Leishmania* parasites. However, the liver is well known target organ of

the toxic impact regarding its function in biotransformation and excretion of xenobiotics. After entering uptake, liver is the first organ to be exposed by portal circulation (Roganovic-Zafirova & Jordanova, 1998). Hepatotoxicity is toxicity to the liver, bile duct and gall bladder. However, the liver is particularly susceptible to xenobiotics due to a large blood supply and its role in metabolism (Afshar et al, 2008). Consequently, the findings of the histological examination of liver tissue of the male BALB/c wild mice in this study were ranged between demonstrating cytoplasmic vacuoles (hydropic degeneration) in 10mg/kg pentostam group, to hydropic degeneration, focal and hepatocytic necrosis in 20mg/kg pentostam group, and lastly irregular area of hepatocytes with condensed pyknotic nuclei (hepatocyte

How to Cite:

Salem Ramadan Sariti²N. E. E. (2021). Anti-Leishmanial drug Pentostam induced histological changes to liver and kidney in male BALB/c wild mice. *International Invention of Scientific Journal*, 5(10), Page: 28-33. Retrieved from <https://iisj.in/index.php/iisj/article/view/350>



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

necrosis) in 40mg/kg pentostam group as it is illustrated in figures 2,3 and 4. These findings are in agreement with the fact that the liver is highly susceptible to be affected by the toxic chemicals (Afshar et al, 2008). Since long time, Ludwig et al. (1994) clarified that in less acute presentations, liver histological changes can be very varied, as changes progress, appearances may mimic chronic hepatitis with portal inflammation, interface hepatitis and fibrosis. In addition to that, acute hepatitis usually causes a lobular pattern of inflammation. The inflammation can be mild with minor infiltrates and spotty necrosis of single hepatocytes, or in severe cases cause widespread necrosis with architectural disturbance (lobular disarray) or collapse (Torbenon, 2014). However, it seems that accumulation of Pentostan is directly toxic to hepatocytes, this hepatocyte toxicity is increased by increasing the Pentostan dose. Al-Jahdali, et al. (2007) concluded that the liver syndrome's intensity correlated with the increase in dose and duration time.

In the same line, the kidney is a vital organ of body and proper kidney functioning is important to maintain the homeostasis. Kidney is not only involved in removal of wastes from blood but it is also responsible for selective reabsorption, which helps in maintaining volume and pH of blood and body fluids, erythropoiesis and help in regulating blood pressure by producing the enzyme rennin. Kidney is one of those organs, which are severely affected by different toxic chemicals (Furhan et al., 2004; Hole, 1992). Unfortunately, Kidneys are highly susceptible to toxicants for two reasons: i. a high volume of blood flows through it and ii. they filtrate large amount of toxins which can be concentrate in their tubules. Anyway, Nephrotoxicity is toxic to the kidneys which may result in systemic toxicity causing decrease ability to excrete the body wastes, inability to maintain the body fluid and electrolyte balance and decreased synthesis of essential hormones (Fin, 1977; Afshar et al, 2008). Nephrotoxicity induced by drugs is common in children and underlying renal disease and cardiovascular disease. Drugs

can cause acute renal injury, intra renal obstruction, nephrotic syndrome, interstitial nephritis. Certain drugs can cause alteration in intraglomerular hemodynamics, inflammatory changes in renal tubular cells leading to acute kidney injury (Shahrbaf&Assadi, 2015). Consequently, the findings of the histological examination of kidney tissue of the male BALB/c wild mice in this study were ranged between demonstrating mild cloudy swelling (reversible hydropic degeneration) in 10mg/kg pentostam group, to showed stromal aggregates of inflammatory cells (nephritis) in 20mg/kg pentostam group, and lastly showed renal tubule casts and necrosis in 40mg/kg pentostam group. These findings are in agreement with that observations obtained by Furhan et al., as he described that the necrosis of hematopoietic tissue, vacuolation of tubule cells, dilation of glomerular capillaries and degeneration of epithelial cell lining are some of the pathological changes observed in kidney of various toxins (Furhan et al., 2004). Finally, histological analysis of liver and kidney tissue seems likely to remain an important investigation to determine the drug toxicity and effectively. As a final point, it is worth remembering that it is imperative to include information on drug toxicity, which is essential when designing therapeutic guidelines. After all, In this study, after 28 i.p. pentostam therapeutic days, which administered in different doses (10, 20 and 40 mg/kg), a clear histopathological changes were observed in the mice's liver and kidney tissue compared to the control group. In addition, these histological changes were clearly related to the pentostam dose. In the meaning of that, the histological changes were increased by increasing the pentostam dose (dose dependent changes). However, this study revealed that exposure to pentostam for about one month can cause histological changes in the male of BALB/c wild mice liver and kidneys even within the normal therapeutic dose.

Conclusion:

Histological analysis of liver and kidney tissue still an important role to evaluate the drug toxicity.

However, in this study we found a clear histological changes in liver and kidneys which are related to the pentostam dosage (dose dependent changes). Therefore, it will be of an important to investigate the biological function of the liver and kidneys affected by the anti-leishmanial drug pentostam in the male same different doses which have been used in this study.

References:

-Abyot Desta, Solomon Shiferaw, Andargachew Kassa, Techalew Shimelis, and Simachew Dires. Leishmaniasis for the Ethiopian Health Center Team. EPHTI, 2005.

-Afshar S., AA Farshid, R Heidari and M Ilkhanipour. Histopathological changes in the liver and kidney tissues of Wistar albino rat exposed to fenitrothion. *Toxicology and Industrial Health* 2008; 24: 581–586.

-Al-Jahdali, MO, Bin Bisher, AS Abu zeid, IM (2007) Physiological and histological alterations in rats liver induced by sumithion® NP 25/2.5 EC, an insecticide used in Dengue Fever Vector control in Jeddah Saudi Arabia. *Saudi J Biol Sci* 14: 43–51.

-Finn, WF. Renal responses to environmental toxins. *Environ Health Perspect* (1977) 20: 15–26.

-Furhan Iqbal, Irfan Zia Qureshi and Muhammad Ali. Histopathological Changes in the kidney of common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*, following nitrate exposure. *J. res. Sci.*, 2004, 15(4), 411-418.

-García 'a-Herna 'ndez R, Manzano JI, Castanys S, Gamarro F. *Leishmania donovani* develops resistance to drug combinations. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*. 2012;6(12):e1974.

-Hole, J. W. "Essentials of human anatomy and physiology", (1992) 4th ed. Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, 745-749.

-Ludwig J, Moyer TP, Rakela J. The liver biopsy diagnosis of Wilson's disease. *Methods in pathology. Am J Clin Pathol* 1994;102:443–6.

-Mitropoulos P, Konidas P, Durkin-Konidas M. New World cutaneous leishmaniasis: updated review of current and future diagnosis and treatment. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2010; 63(2):309–22.

-Ponte-Sucre Alicia, Francisco Gamarro, Jean-Claude Dujardin, Michael P. Barrett, Rogelio López-Ve 'lez, Raquel Garc 'a-Herna 'ndez, Andrew W. Pountain, Roy Mwenechanya, Barbara Papadopoulou. Drug resistance and treatment failure in leishmaniasis: A 21st century challenge. *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. December 14, 2017.

-Roganovic-Zafirova, D, Jordanova, M. Liver lesions in bleak (*Alburnus alburnus alborella* Filippi) collected from some contaminated sites on lake Ohrid. A histopathological evidence. *Ekol Zast Zivot Sred* (1998) 6: 11–18.

- **Shahrbaf** Fatemeh Ghane, Farahnak Assadi. Drug-induced renal disorders. *J Renal Inj Prev*. 2015; 4(3): 57-60.

-Torbenson M. *Biopsy interpretation of the liver*. Wolters Kluwer Health, 2014.

-WHO

<http://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/255104>. Accessed on 10 May 2017.