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## Effects of some antidiabetic and antihypertensive drug combinations on streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats

Bolanle I O, Omogbai E K I and Bafor E E University of Benin, Nigeria

iabetes mellitus is a spectrum of common metabolic m Ddisorders, arising from a variety of pathologic mechanisms, all resulting in hyperglycaemia. Diabetes and hypertension frequently occur together and are two leading risk factors for atherosclerosis and its complications. This study examined the effects of some antidiabetic (metformin and glibenclamide) and antihypertensive (amlodipine and valsartan) combination regimens on streptozotocininduced diabetes mellitus in rats. Male Wistar rats weighing (200 – 350 g) were fasted overnight and diabetes mellitus was induced by a single dose (40 mg/kg body weight) intraperitoneal injection of streptozotocin in freshly prepared 0.1 M citrate buffer, pH 4.5. After 48 h, diabetes mellitus was confirmed (blood sugar ≥ 200 mg/dl) and rats were grouped into eight groups of seven rats each that included normal rats with no drug treatment, untreated diabetic rats and other groups of diabetic rats treated with different combination regimens. After six weeks treatment, animals were sacrificed under chloroform anaesthesia, visceral organs (kidney, liver, lung and heart) and blood samples were collected for histology and biochemical

analyses respectively. Statistical analyses were done using one-way Anova followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test (Graphpad Prism® 6, San Diego, USA). P-value was set at P < 0.05 for significant difference. Diabetic rats had 100% mortality but addition of antihypertensives (amlodipine or valsartan) to antidiabetics (metformin or glibenclamide) improved survival rate as seen in glibenclamide plus valsartan treated group which had 71.4% compared with 57.4% in glibenclamide-treated. The addition of the antihypertensives significantly (P < 0.05) improved blood glucose control (except glibenclamide+amlodipine treated) and ameliorated pathologic changes in the biochemical indices, haematological counts, liver function, renal function and lipid profile, (P < 0.05). There was also histologic evidence of organ protection among the various treated groups when compared with the untreated diabetic group. Addition of amlodipine or valsartan to metformin or glibenclamide improved treatment outcomes in diabetic rats compared to when antidiabetics were used alone.

olapeju.bolanle@uniben.edu