



Paper # ( ٤ )

**Hepatoprotective effects of Zamzam water against carbon tetrachloride induced liver damage in rats: biochemical, histopathological, and molecular evidences.**

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**Life Science Journal, 1٧(١٤): ٣٠٠-٣٠٨.**

**Global Impact Factor: ٠.٦٨٣**

**Summary:**

Alkaline water have been claimed to boost hepatoprotective effect. Thus, this study aimed to investigate if Zamzam water (ZW), that is similarly alkaline, can promote hepatoprotective effect. Hepatoprotective properties of ZW were investigated in a rat model of liver injury induced by carbon tetrachloride (CCl<sub>4</sub>). Carbon tetrachloride was used as a hepatotoxic agent while, ZW were used as a probable hepatoprotective agent. ٧٤ rats were divided into four main groups. Group I, served as normal control, Group II served as liver injured group treated only with CCl<sub>4</sub>, Group III served as ZW control, and Group IV served as liver recovery group treated with CCl<sub>4</sub> and drinking ZW. Various biochemical parameters supported by histopathology of liver sections were studied to evaluate the hepatoprotective activity of ZW. The study was also supported for the first time in case of ZW evaluation effects by using of DNA extraction of the rats' livers to investigate the genomic DNA integrity. Results revealed that the serum biomarkers in carbon tetrachloride treated rats recorded elevated concentration indicating severe hepatic damage by carbon tetrachloride. The results of the serum biomarkers of "ZW treated rats" showed significant reduction indicating the effect of ZW in restoring the normal structural and functional ability of the hepatocytes. Both the molecular and histopathological results showed protective effect in the experimental model of hepatic alterations of rats, and suggests the use of ZW as a hepato-protective agent in the diet of patients with hepatic illness.