

Huperzine A and Methylprednisolone both elicit a significant reduction in histopathological score with mild congestion in alveolar capillaries and mild interstitial inflammatory cells infiltration as compared to LPS group (Figure 2).

Both Huperzine A and Methylprednisolone demonstrated a beneficial effect in reducing histopathological scores, suggesting a potential protective or therapeutic impact on lung tissue.

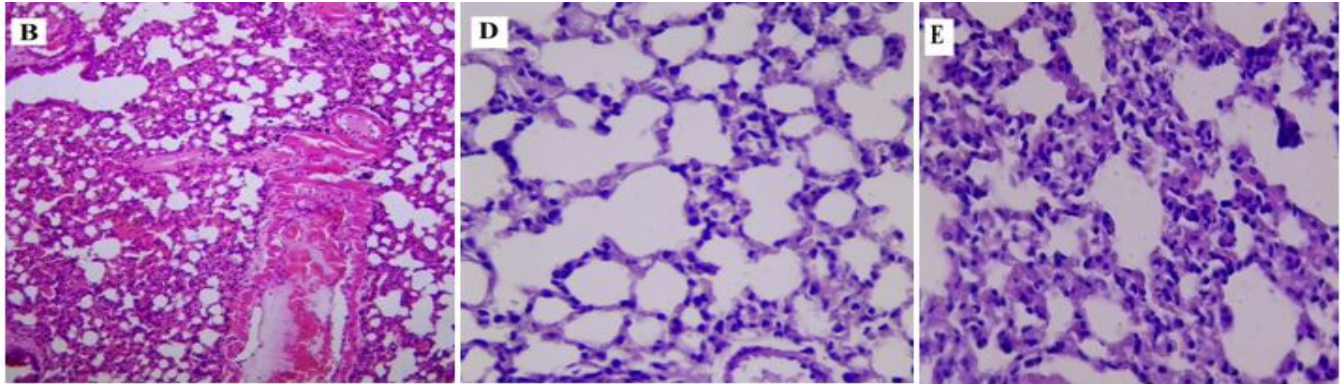


Figure 2: Lung histological section of LPS group (B) (x20), Huperzine A group (D) (x40), and Methylprednisolone group (E) (x40).

Discussion

Gram-negative bacteria [23]; they maintain the bacterial cell structural integrity and act as a permeability barrier [24]. LPS is a potent stimulator of the innate immune system; typically, it's an exogenous agent that unleashes immune cells [25, 26]. LPS recognition will lead to a series of intracellular processes to activate NF- κ B and MAPK kinase pathways that subsequently lead to an induction of many proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines.

Our results are similar to prior research that showed that LPS treatment significantly increased TNF- α [27, 28]. Huperzine A significantly reduced TNF- α [29, 30] *et al.* and Cai *et al.* [29, 30] also found similar results to the present study. Huperzine A exhibited protective effects by inhibiting AChE activity, accumulating acetylcholine, and activating the cholinergic anti-inflammatory pathway [31, 32]. Huperzine A increases nAChRs expressed in neural and immune cells [33].

Huperzine A increases the expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines [34], but it suppresses the production of proinflammatory cytokines [35, 36]. Huperzine A's cholinergic anti-inflammatory properties prevent the translocation of the NF- κ B [37, 38]. Huperzine A induces the activation of other inflammatory mediators, such as the synthesis of Nitric oxide (NO) and prostaglandin (PG) [39]. Huperzine A suppresses the inflammatory process. Huperzine A suppresses the expression of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS),

COX-2, and their related inflammatory mediators NO and prostaglandin. These mediators are key players in the MAPK pathway [39]. The common condition known as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) still has a high fatality rate in critical care medicine. Direct lung injury causes of ARDS include pneumonia and aspiration and extrapulmonary diseases that affect the lung secondarily (such as sepsis and pancreatitis) [40].

Induced by LPS intraperitoneally, this causes an excessive formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and the release of inflammatory cytokines into the systemic circulation. That leads to indirect lung injury with interstitial edema [41, 42]. Huperzine A [41, 42] have shown that the cholinergic anti-inflammatory pathway plays a role in suppressing the inflammatory response in acute lung damage. According to Mohseni-Moghaddam *et al.* [43], Acetylcholinesterase activity, oxidative stress, and inflammation are all inhibited by huperzine A. Nitrite and malondialdehyde (MDA) levels decreased while catalase and superoxide dismutase (SOD) activities enhanced.

The reduced oxidative stress could decrease caspase-1 activation [44, 45]. Huperzine A prevents ROS-mediated NF- κ B activation [44, 45]. Huperzine A reduces the production of proinflammatory cytokines, chemokines, and adhesion molecules like VCAM-1 and ICAM-1. These interactions enable leukocyte recruitment into inflamed tissues, leading to endothelial cell apoptosis and promotes NO production, aids in vasodilatation, and raises endothelial permeability, which results in endothelial barrier damage. Yang *et al.* [46] found that huperzine A reduces oxidative stress, inflammatory cytokine production, and

caspase-3 activity to protect against Hepatic Ischemia-Reperfusion injury in mice. Ruan *et al.* mention that Huperzine A suppresses endothelial cell apoptosis and inhibits endothelial cell senescence by increasing endothelial cell proliferation.

CONCLUSION

Huperzine A demonstrates a protective effect against cytokine storm induced in Swiss Albino mice using LPS by suppressing serum levels of IL-1 β , IL-6, and TNF- α and improving the lung histopathological changes.

References

1. D. C. Fajgenbaum and C. H. June, "Cytokine storm," *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 383, no. 23, pp. 2255-2273, 2020.
2. S. Bhaskar *et al.*, "Cytokine storm in COVID-19—immunopathological mechanisms, clinical considerations, and therapeutic approaches: the REPROGRAM consortium position paper," *Frontiers in immunology*, vol. 11, p. 1648, 2020.
3. N. B. AbdAllah *et al.*, "MYD88, NFKB1, and IL6 transcripts overexpression are associated with poor outcomes and short survival in neonatal sepsis," *Scientific Reports*, vol. 11, no. 1, p. 13374, 2021.
4. D. W. Lee *et al.*, "ASTCT consensus grading for cytokine release syndrome and neurologic toxicity associated with immune effector cells," *Biology of blood and marrow transplantation*, vol. 25, no. 4, pp. 625-638, 2019.
5. A. A. Rabaan *et al.*, "Role of inflammatory cytokines in COVID-19 patients: A review on molecular mechanisms, immune functions, immunopathology and immunomodulatory drugs to counter cytokine storm," *Vaccines*, vol. 9, no. 5, p. 436, 2021.
6. J.-M. Zhang and J. An, "Cytokines, inflammation and pain," *International anesthesiology clinics*, vol. 45, no. 2, p. 27, 2007.
7. T. Tanaka and T. Kishimoto, "Targeting interleukin-6: all the way to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases," *International journal of biological sciences*, vol. 8, no. 9, p. 1227, 2012.
8. S. I. Grivnennikov *et al.*, "Distinct and nonredundant in vivo functions of TNF produced by t cells and macrophages/neutrophils: protective and deleterious effects," *Immunity*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 93-104, 2005.
9. D. Ragab, H. Salah Eldin, M. Taeimah, R. Khattab, and R. Salem, "The COVID-19 cytokine storm; what we know so far," *Frontiers in immunology*, p. 1446, 2020.
10. M. Reale and E. Costantini, "Cholinergic modulation of the immune system in neuroinflammatory diseases," *Diseases*, vol. 9, no. 2, p. 29, 2021.
11. S. Hu, Y. Wang, and H. Li, "The regulation effect of α 7nAChRs and M1AChRs on inflammation and immunity in sepsis," *Mediators of Inflammation*, vol. 2021, 2021.
12. N. V. Alen, "The cholinergic anti-inflammatory pathway in humans: State-of-the-art review and future directions," *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews*, vol. 136, p. 104622, 2022.
13. W. Pu *et al.*, "Protective effect of α 7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor activation on experimental colitis and its mechanism," *Molecular Medicine*, vol. 28, no. 1, p. 104, 2022.
14. M. C. Maldifassi *et al.*, "A new IRAK-M-mediated mechanism implicated in the anti-inflammatory effect of nicotine via α 7 nicotinic receptors in human macrophages," *PLoS One*, vol. 9, no. 9, p. e108397, 2014.
15. W. J. de Jonge *et al.*, "Stimulation of the vagus nerve attenuates macrophage activation by activating the Jak2-STAT3 signaling pathway," *Nature immunology*, vol. 6, no. 8, pp. 844-851, 2005.
16. Y. Deng, S.-L. Guo, B. Wei, X.-C. Gao, Y.-C. Zhou, and J.-Q. Li, "Activation of nicotinic acetylcholine α 7 receptor attenuates progression of monocrotaline-induced pulmonary hypertension in rats by downregulating the NLRP3 inflammasome," *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, vol. 10, p. 128, 2019.
17. S. Anukanon *et al.*, "In Silico-Guided Rational Drug Design and Semi-synthesis of C (2)-Functionalized Huperzine A Derivatives as Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors," *ACS omega*, vol. 6, no. 30, pp. 19924-19939, 2021.
18. Y. R. Kong, K. C. Tay, Y. X. Su, C. K. Wong, W. N. Tan, and K. Y. Khaw, "Potential of naturally derived alkaloids as multi-targeted therapeutic agents for neurodegenerative diseases," *Molecules*, vol. 26, no. 3, p. 728, 2021.
19. A. Ferreira, M. Rodrigues, A. Fortuna, A. Falcão, and G. Alves, "Huperzine A from *Huperzia serrata*: a review of its sources, chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology," *Phytochemistry reviews*, vol. 15, pp. 51-85, 2016.
20. W. W. Daniel and C. L. Cross, *Biostatistics: a foundation for analysis in the health sciences*. Wiley, 2018.
21. T. Jambulingam and T. Saxton, "Strategic alliance and acquisition performance: Impact of interfirm synergies and motives in the bio-pharmaceutical industry," *Journal of Commercial Biotechnology*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2021.
22. B. Bertani and N. Ruiz, "Function and biogenesis of lipopolysaccharides," *EcoSal Plus*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 10.1128/ecosalplus. ESP-0001-2018, 2018.
23. R. Pedrero-Tomé, M. Marrodán, and M. Cabañas, "ANTHROPOMETRIC PROFILE OF THE MADRID WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM U-16 AND U-18," *Revista Internacional de Medicina y Ciencias de la Actividad Física y del Deporte*, vol. 22, no. 85, 2022.
24. A. Skrzypczak-Wiercioch and K. Sałat, "Lipopolysaccharide-induced model of neuroinflammation: mechanisms of action, research application and future directions for its use," *Molecules*, vol. 27, no. 17, p. 5481, 2022.
25. B. Rangel-Colmenero *et al.*, "BEHAVIOUR OF CHOLINESTERASES AFTER FATIGUE CONDITIONS IN ENDURANCE RUNNERS," *Revista Internacional de Medicina y Ciencias de la Actividad Física y del Deporte*, vol. 22, no. 85, 2022.
26. O. Coelho *et al.*, "The Arabic Version of the personality inventory for the DSM-5 (PID-5) in a clinical sample of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Nationals," *American journal of health behavior*, vol. 44, no. 6, pp. 794-806, 2020.
27. A. F. Abed Mansoor and A. R. Abu Raghif, "Attenuated effects of rivastigmine in induced cytokine storm in mice," *Journal of Emergency Medicine, Trauma & Acute Care*, vol. 2022, no. 3, p. 12, 2022.
28. H. B. Sahib, O. A. Kathum, R. S. Alanee, R. A. Jawad, and A. M. Al-Shammari, "The Anti-Cytokine Storm Activity of Quercetin Zinc and Vitamin C Complex," *Advances in Virology*, vol. 2022, 2022.
29. H. Zhang, D. Wang, J. Sun, Y. Wang, S. Wu, and J. Wang, "Huperzine—A Improved Animal Behavior in Cuprizone-Induced Mouse Model by Alleviating Demyelination and Neuroinflammation," *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, vol. 23, no. 24, p. 16182, 2022.
30. Y. Cai, P. Huang, and Y. Xie, "Effects of huperzine A on hippocampal inflammatory response and neurotrophic factors in aged rats after anesthesia," *Acta Cirurgica Brasileira*, vol. 34, 2020.
31. L. Xie *et al.*, "Effect of Huperzine A on A β -induced p65 of astrocyte in vitro," *Bioscience, biotechnology, and biochemistry*, vol. 80, no. 12, pp. 2334-2337, 2016.

32. C. Kaewmool, P. Kongtawelert, T. Phitak, P. Pothacharoen, and S. Udomruk, "Protocatechuic acid inhibits inflammatory responses in LPS-activated BV2 microglia via regulating SIRT1/NF- κ B pathway contributed to the suppression of microglial activation-induced PC12 cell apoptosis," *Journal of neuroimmunology*, vol. 341, p. 577164, 2020.
33. A. A. Soares Costa *et al.*, "Lung cancer biomarkers. A literature review," *Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial*, vol. 58, p. e4152022, 2022.
34. A. B. Hauser, L. I. Accordi, M. V. S. Boganha, D. A. Hofelmann, C. G. Meissner, and A. N. d. A. Buchmann, "Comparison between visual inspection of turbidity and quantitative determination of triglycerides in plasma bags," *Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial*, vol. 58, 2022.
35. T. K. Dang *et al.*, "Anti-Neuroinflammatory Effect of Alkaloid-Enriched Extracts from *Huperzia Serrata* (Thunb.) Trevis in Lipopolysaccharide-Stimulated Bv2 Microglia Cells."
36. C. W. Nicolajsen and N. Eldrup, "Abdominal closure and the risk of incisional hernia in aneurysm surgery—a systematic review and meta-analysis," *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*, vol. 59, no. 2, pp. 227-236, 2020.
37. H. Domscheit, M. A. Hegeman, N. Carvalho, and P. M. Spieth, "Molecular dynamics of lipopolysaccharide-induced lung injury in rodents," *Frontiers in physiology*, vol. 11, p. 36, 2020.
38. L. Cano, Á. Piza, and F. Farfán, "HIGH INTENSITY INTERVAL TRAINING IN YOUNG RUGBY PLAYERS FROM ARGENTINA," *Revista Internacional de Medicina y Ciencias de la Actividad Física y del Deporte*, vol. 20, no. 80, 2020.
39. S. Saha, P. Pal, S. Halder, K. Dhara, and N. Saha, "Shark diversity in the Indian Sundarban biosphere," *FishTaxa*, vol. 23, pp. 53-56, 2022.
40. R. Fricke, "Obliquogobius bathyalis, a new species of deep-living gobies (Teleostei: Gobiidae) from New Caledonia, southwestern Pacific Ocean," *FishTaxa*, vol. 24, pp. 1-9, 2022.
41. R. Li *et al.*, "Role of Cholinergic Anti-Inflammatory Pathway in Protecting Sepsis-Induced Acute Lung Injury through Regulation of the Conventional Dendritic Cells," *Mediators of Inflammation*, vol. 2022, 2022.
42. V. Kumar, M. Bhatia, and A. Kumar, "Microbes from mouth to gut impacting probiotics to antibiotics," *Journal of Natural Science, Biology and Medicine*, vol. 11, no. 2, pp. 83-83, 2020.
43. P. Mohseni-Moghaddam *et al.*, "Huperzine A ameliorates cognitive dysfunction and neuroinflammation in kainic acid-induced epileptic rats by antioxidant activity and NLRP3/caspase-1 pathway inhibition," *Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology*, vol. 46, no. 4, pp. 360-372, 2019.
44. K. A. Guevara-Noriega, A. Martinez-Toiran, B. Alvarez-Concejo, and J. L. Pomar, "Historical overview of vascular allografts transplantation," *Vasc Endovasc Rev*, vol. 2, pp. 19-22, 2019.
45. A. A. Boni and D. Abremski, "Commercialization challenges and approaches for digital health transformation," *Journal of Commercial Biotechnology*, vol. 27, no. 1, 2022.
46. Y. Yang, J. Yang, and Q. Jiang, "The protective effect of huperzine A against hepatic ischemia reperfusion injury in mice," in *Transplantation proceedings*, 2014, vol. 46, no. 5: Elsevier, pp. 1573-1577.