

# Evaluation The Iron Homeostasis and Erythropoietic Activity in Male Rats with Anemia Related with Induced Chronic Renal Failure

Afiya Layth Darweesh<sup>1</sup>, Wafaa Kadhim Jasim<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>M.Sc., <sup>2</sup>Ph.D., College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Kerbala, Karbala, Iraq

## Abstract

The present study conducted to evaluate the iron homeostasis and erythropoietic activity in male rats with anemia related to induced chronic renal failure. Sixty adult male rats were divided into four groups, the first group administered with DMSO as a control negative, while the second group administered DMSO and then moringa leaf powder, the third group adenine was administered only and the fourth group adenine then given moringa leaf powder. The experiment lasted for forty-four days. At the end of the study, blood was collected via the heart puncture and measured the following biomarkers (Urea, creatinine, RBC count, Erythropoietin, erythroferrone, ferritin, Serum iron and hepcidin). The results revealed that the rats treated with adenine caused a significant increase in (creatinine, urea, ferritin and hepcidin concentration), on the other hand there was a significant decrease in RBC count, Hb and Hematocrit in the adenine group. In addition to Erythropoietin, erythroferrone and serum iron levels, however, combined adenine with moringa results in returning these biochemical criteria to their normal levels in the control group.

**Keywords:** *moringaoleifera*, *Erythroferrone*, *renal failure*, *Adenine*

## Introduction

Anemia commonly occurs in people with chronic kidney disease (CKD)—the permanent, partial loss of kidney function. Healthy kidneys produce a hormone called erythropoietin (EPO). A hormone is a chemical produced by the body and released into the blood to help trigger or regulate particular body functions. Prompts the bone marrow to make red blood cells which then carry oxygen throughout the body.<sup>1</sup> When kidneys are diseased or damaged, they do not make enough EPO. As a result, the bone marrow makes fewer red blood cells, causing anemia. When blood has fewer red blood cells, it deprives the body of the oxygen it needs.<sup>2</sup> Erythroferrone is a hormone that controls iron metabolism through its actions on hepcidin.<sup>3</sup> It is produced in erythroblasts, which proliferate when new red cells are synthesized. This process is governed by

the renal hormone, erythropoietin.<sup>4</sup> The mechanism of action of Erythroferrone is to inhibit the expression of the liver hormone, hepcidin. By suppressing this, ERFE increases the function of the cellular iron export channel (Ferroportin). This then results in increased iron absorption from the intestine and mobilization of iron from stores,<sup>5</sup> which can then be used in the synthesis of hemoglobin in new red blood cells. Moringa has various biological activities such as reducing hyperglycemia, anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, antimicrobial, anticancer and antioxidant. In fact, it is believed that the Moringa has many benefits based on its nutrition. The ratio of grams per gram, Moringa leaves dry powder contains 25 times more iron than spinach<sup>6</sup>, in which iron is one of the therapeutic agents for anemia which can compensate for the loss of hemoglobin.<sup>7</sup> The leaves are the most nutritious part of the plant, being a significant source of B vitamins, vitamin C, provitamin A as beta-carotene, vitamin K, manganese, and protein.<sup>8</sup> The present study was designed to investigate the role of Erythroferrone (ERFE) in iron homeostasis and erythropoietic activity in anemia related to induced

---

**Corresponding author:**

**Wafaa Kadhim Jasim**

wafaa.gasom@uokerbala.edu.iq

chronic renal failure in male rats

## Materials and Methods

### Preparation of MoringaOleifera leaves powder

Fresh moringaoleifera leaves are collected from Alkafeel Nurseries Group Washed and dried at room temperature then grained by the electric grinder into powder. (9) .5% of moringaoleifera leave powder were mixed with the usual nutrition ration of crushed feed diet (10)

### Chemicals:

Adenine was obtained from Sigma Aldrich. all ELIZA kit like, (Erythropoietin erythoferrone, Ferritin, Serum iron and hepcidin) obtain from (Bio cellular Company) (china), Urea and creatinine obtain from (SPECTRUM company) (Egypt) measured by spectrophotometer.

### Experimental design

Sixty male rats(Rattus norvegicus) aged (2 -3month) weighting (170-200) gm were divided randomly into four groups (15/group)

First group (GI) control negative were administrate with DMSO by interaperitoneally for 4 weeks. Second group (GII) is the control positive were administrating with DMSO by interaperitoneally for 4 weeks and then moringa leaf powder given at dose rang 5% for 2 weeks with diet <sup>10</sup>. While rats included in third group (GIII) adenine were administrated interaperitoneally 100mg/kg.bw for 4 weeks for induction of renal failure <sup>11</sup> .finally the fourth group (GIV) adenine were administrated interaperitoneally 100mg/kg.bw for 4 weeks for induction of renal failure <sup>11</sup> and the given moringaoleifera leaf powder at dose 5% for 2 weeks with diet <sup>10</sup>

At the end of the study, blood was collected via the heart puncture and measured the following biomarkers (Urea, creatinine, BBC count, Erythropoietin, erythoferrone ,

, Ferritin, Serum iron and hepcidin). these parameters were measured according to the

instruction of the manufacture company by using ELIZA

## Results

**Table (1) Effect of MoringaOleifera Leaves powder on Some Serum Kidney Function Tests in Male rats with Induced CRF**

groups parameters	GI Control negative	GII Control positive + moringa leaves	GIII Adenine	GIV Adenine+ Moringa
Urea Mg/dl	45.00±2.921 C	55.50 ±3.403 BC	99.68±6.135 A	69.20±5.75 B
Creatinine Mg/dl	0.45±0.084 B	0.60± 0.057 B	2.56±0.209 A	0.86±0.091 B

- Mean ±SE( n=6 rat / group )

-Different letters represent significant(p≤0.05) difference between groups

The results in table (1) clarified there were a significant (p≤0.05) elevation in the serum urea in (GIII) adenine treated group in comparison with other groups

On the other hand, combined adenine with moringa (GIV) in the same table showed a significant (p≤0.05) reduction comparing to (GIII) as compared to control group (GI)

Also Table (1) illustrated there were statistically significant (p≤0.05) increment in serum creatinine in

adenine treated group (GIII) as compare to other groups

As the same table showed combined adenine plus moringa (GIV) caused a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrement of serum creatinine comparing to (GIII)

**Table (2) effect of MoringaOleifera leaves powder on Complete Blood Count in male rats with Induced CRF**

Parameters groups	RBC Count (cell*1012/ l)	PCV %	Hb (gm/dl)
Control	7.43±0.43 B	40.83±0.82 AB	15.25±0.45 A
Moringa	8.49±0.25 A	42.66±0.66 A	15.72±0.41 A
Adenine	5.69±0.23 C	35.66±0.33 C	9.06±0.34 C
Adenine +moringa	7.29 ±0.32 B	39.50±0.67 B	13.65±0.64 B

Mean ± ES ( n=6 rat / group )

-Different letters represent significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) difference between groups

The results showed significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrease in RBC count, PVC and HB in adenine group (GIII) in comparison with the other groups. Table (2) Also combined moringa with adenine (GIV) caused significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increase in RBC count, PVC and HB comparing to (GIII)

**Table (3) Effect of MoringaOleifera leaves powder on Iron Homeostasis Parameters in male rats with induced CRF**

Groups Parameters	GI Control negative	GII Control positive + moringa leaves	GIII Adenine	GIV Adenine+ Moringa
Erythropoietin ng/ml	9.88 ±0.302 A	11.07±0.602 A	4.10 ±0.367 C	7.50 ±0.439 B
erythoferrone ng/ml	19.66±.1.516 A	18.04±1.593 AB	10.23±0.426 C	15.52±1.025 B
Ferttin ng/ml	6.60 ±0.174 B	6.80 ±1.133 B	9.98 ±0.837 A	7.49 ±.0183 B
Serum iron µmol/L	8.19 ±0.090 A	9.59 ±0.264 A	6.41 ±0.495 B	8.26 ±0.454 A
hepcidin ng/ml	19.25 ±0.456 B	19.60±0.622 B	23.09±1.101 A	19.64±1.363 B

-Mean ± ES ( n=6 rat / group )

-Different letters represent significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) difference between groups

There were statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrease of serum erythropoietin in adenine treated group (GIII) in comparison with the other treated groups. Table (3) Also combined moringa with adenine (GIV) ameliorate the serum erythropoietin. The serum erythoferrone showed a significant decrease ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in adenine treated group (GIII) as compared to other groups. The results also revealed that rat treated adenine plus moringa (GIV) caused significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increase comparing to (GIII). Depending on the results clarifies in table (3) there were a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) elevation in serum ferritin in adenine treated group (GIII) comparing to the other groups, Also the combine adenine with moringa group (GIV) caused a significant ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) decrease comparing to (GIII). A significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) reduction in table (3) of serum iron in (GIII) adenine treated group (GIII) comparing to the other groups, also there was revealed a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) elevation in the group treated adenine plus moringa (GIV) Comparing to (GIII). Table (3) illustrated there were a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increment in this parameter in adenine treated group (GIII) Comparing to other groups, Combined adenine with moringa (GIV) in the same table caused significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrement of serum hepcidin comparing to (GIII) group,

### Discussion

The results in table (1) clarified there were a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) elevation in the serum urea in (GIII) adenine treated group in comparison with other groups. This study was agreeing with result conducted by Ikizler, et al. <sup>12</sup>

Urea nitrogenous compounds usually released from the blood by the kidney into the form of urine, renal dysfunction results in accumulation of urea in blood circulation as it is obvious in chronic renal failure conditions in high levels. <sup>13</sup>

On the other hand, combined adenine with moringa (GIV) in the same table showed a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) reduction comparing to (GIII) as compared to control group (GI).moringaoleifera leaves administration works on develop of the results that show the fall in urea concentrations better than before a significant decrease

in serum urea in group (GIV) combined adenine with moringa in comparison with adenine group . <sup>14</sup>.

Also Table (1) illustrated there were statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increment in serum creatinine in adenine treated group (GIII) as compare to other groups ,this our data agrees with results of <sup>15</sup> ,Creatinine is a product released by muscles from the degradation of a compound named creatine. Creatinine is cleared from the body by the kidneys, which filter high levels of it from the blood and cleared it into the urine(16).As the same table showed combined adenine plus moringa (GIV) caused a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrement of serum creatinine comparing to (GIII) ,that the disturbance of plasma electrolyte imbalance may influence the pH, osmolality, and blood volume which may lead to renal dysfunction or anther body disturbances .*M. oleifera* has appear to own diuretic effect (17). Table (2) , this agree with ( 18 )Which occur Through dialysis HB concentrations are decreased to critical levels ,that results in anemia , <sup>19</sup> happen during anemia condition in patients with acute and chronic renal failure results revealed reduction in RBC count and HB levels and <sup>20</sup> It is occur due to pathogenesis of renal anemia . Also combined moringa with adenine (GIV) caused significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increase in RBC count , PVC and HB comparing to (GIII), after moringaoleifera leaves administration we can see clear result that describes by increasing in RBC count value with little extent for PVC count and HB count in (GIV) group moringaoleifera is rich with high nutritional supplements such as (iron ,calcium and vitamins) which is one of the essential component in synthesis of hemoglobin in red blood cells <sup>21</sup>

There were statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrease of serum erythropoietin in adenine treated group (GIII) in comparison with the other treated groups .Table (3) The present study agree with results conducted by <sup>22</sup>

Generally cases with kidney disease will posses anemia which occur in early in the course of kidney disease and grow worse as kidneys fail and can no longer make EPO. <sup>23</sup> .Also combined moringa with adenine (GIV) ameliorate the serum erythropoietin ,moringaoleifera may assist on keeping further homeostatic balance by support Erythropoietin to fasten its effects by linking to the erythropoietin receptor EpoR <sup>24</sup>

The serum erythropoietin showed a significant decrease ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) in adenine treated group (GIII) as compared to other groups, the results of present study agree with result of <sup>25</sup> since one of the most essential element of red blood cell manufacture is hemoglobin that is obtained from iron stores in the body <sup>26</sup>, yet anemia occur because erythropoietin release is restricted and become in low concentrations that because of hepcidin hormone release from it which stimulate the absorption of iron from alimentary track <sup>27</sup>. The results also revealed that rat treated adenine plus moringa (GIV) caused significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) increase comparing to (GIII), moringaoleifera leaves provide a natural source for iron (28) with addition to other supplements calcium, minerals, vitamins which assist on maintenance of biological homeostasis for iron insufficiency. Depending on the results clarifies in table (3) there were a significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) elevation in serum ferritin in adenine treated group (GIII) comparing to the other groups, these results agree with <sup>29</sup> In fact chronic renal failure resulting in disturbances in hormonal released from kidney which is later may effect on erythropoiesis, when erythropoietin is the chief regulator of the red blood cells synthesis so as a result their would be reduction in this process yet anemia occur <sup>30</sup>. Also the combine adenine with moringa group (GIV) caused a significant ( $p \geq 0.05$ ) decrease comparing to (GIII), this due to it may diminish before been used by the target cells whither it execrated with waste materials or not fully absorbed from alimentary tract or other related conditions <sup>31</sup>.

**Financial Disclosure:** There is no financial disclosure.

**Conflict of Interest:** None to declare.

**Ethical Clearance:** All experimental protocols were approved under the University of Baghdad and all experiments were carried out in accordance with approved guidelines.

## References

1. Silverberg DS, Blum M, Agbaria Z. The effect of i.v. iron alone or in combination with low-dose erythropoietin in the rapid correction of anemia of chronic renal failure in the predialysis period. *Clin Nephrol.* 2001; 55(3):212-219.
2. Eliopoulos N, Gagnon RF, Francois M, Galipeau J. Erythropoietin delivery by genetically engineered bone marrow stromal cells for correction of anemia in mice with chronic renal failure. *J Am Soc Nephrol.* 2006; 17(6):1576-1584.
3. Coffey R, Ganz T. Erythropoietin: An erythroid regulator of hepcidin and iron metabolism. *HemaSphere,* 2018; 2(2)e 35 ↑ published online 2018.
4. Jelkmann W. Recombinant EPO production--points the nephrologist should know. *Nephrol Dial Transplant.* 2007;22(10):2749-2753.
5. Boshuizen M, Binnekade JM, Nota B. Iron metabolism in critically ill patients developing anemia of inflammation: a case control study. *Ann Intensive Care.* 2018; 8(1):56.
6. Gopalakrishnan L, Doriya K, Kumar DS. Moringaoleifera: A review on nutritive importance and its medicinal application. *Food science and human wellness,* 2016: 5(2):49-56.
7. Mahima A, R Mandil, AK. Nutritional Potentials of Moringa olifera Leaves in Uttar Pradesh, India. *Research Journal of Medicinal Plants,* 2014; 8: 283-289.
8. Ogbe A, Affiku, JP. Proximate study, mineral and anti-nutrient composition of Moringaoleifera leaves harvested from Lafia, Nigeria: potential benefits in poultry nutrition and health. *Journal of Microbiology, Biotechnology and food sciences.* 2020; 9(4): 296-308.
9. Mun'im, A, Puteri, M, Sari SP. Anti-anemia effect of standardized extract of Moringaoleifera Lamk. leaves on aniline induced rats. *Pharmacognosy Journal.* 2016; 8(3).
10. Yang R, Chang L, Hsu J. Nutritional and functional properties of moringa leaves from germplasm, to plant, to food, to health. *Moringa leaves: Strategies, standards and markets for a better impact on nutrition in Africa.* Moringanews, CDE, CTA, GFU. Paris. 2006:1-9.
11. Rahman A, Yamazaki D, Sufiun A. A novel approach to adenine-induced chronic kidney disease associated anemia in rodents. *PloS one,* 2018; 13 (2) e0192531.
12. Ikizler TA, Sezer MT, Flakoll PJ. Urea space and total body water measurements by stable isotopes in patients with acute renal failure. *Kidney Int.* 2004; 65(2):725-732.
13. Kajimura M, Walsh PJ, Mommsen TP. The dogfish

- shark (*Squalus acanthias*) increases both hepatic and extrahepatic ornithine urea cycle enzyme activities for nitrogen conservation after feeding. *Physiol. Biochem.Zool.*2006; 79(3):602-13.
14. Adeyemi O, Elebiyo T. Moringaoleifera supplemented diets prevented nickel-induced nephrotoxicity in wistar rats. *Journal of nutrition and metabolism*,2014; 2:8
  15. Syme HM, Markwell PJ, Pfeiffer D. Survival of cats with naturally occurring chronic renal failure is related to severity of proteinuria. *J Vet Intern Med.* 2006; 20(3):528-535.
  16. Cirillo M, Laurenzi M. Low muscular mass and overestimation of microalbuminuria by urinary albumin/creatinine ratio. *Hypertension*, 2006; 47(1):56-61.
  17. Mbikay M. Therapeutic Potential of Moringa oleifera Leaves in Chronic Hyperglycemia and Dyslipidemia: A Review. *Front Pharmacol.* 2012;3:24.
  18. Amin N, Mahmood R. Evaluating urea and creatinine levels in chronic renal failure pre and post dialysis: a prospective study. *Journal of cardiovascular disease*, 2014; 2(2):1-4.
  19. Dorgalaleh A, Mahmudi M, Tabibian S. Anemia and thrombocytopenia in acute and chronic renal failure. *Int J Hematol Oncol Stem Cell Res.* 2013;7(4):34-39.
  20. Tomosugi N, Kawabata H. Detection of serum hepcidin in renal failure and inflammation by using ProteinChip System. *Blood* 2006; 108 (4): 1381–1387.
  21. Sajidu S, Henry E, Kwamdera, G. Removal of lead, iron and cadmium ions by means of polyelectrolytes of the Moringaoleifera whole seed kernel. *WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment*, 2005; 80: 8
  22. Di Iorio BR, Minutolo R, De Nicola L. Supplemented very low protein diet ameliorates responsiveness to erythropoietin in chronic renal failure. *Kidney Int.* 2003; 64(5):1822-1828.
  23. Palazzuoli A, Silverberg D, Iovine F. Erythropoietin improves anemia exercise tolerance and renal function and reduces B-type natriuretic peptide and hospitalization in patients with heart failure and anemia. *Am Heart J.* 2006; 152(6):1096.e9-1096.e1.096E15.
  24. Hodges VM, Rainey S, Lappin TR, Maxwell AP. Pathophysiology of anemia and erythrocytosis. *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol.* 2007; 64(2): 139-158.
  25. Vallet N. Club du Globule Rouge et du Fer. Rôle de l'érythroferrone dans le métabolisme du fer : des résultats expérimentaux aux modèles physiopathologiques [The role of erythroferrone in iron metabolism: From experimental results to pathogenesis]. *Rev Med Interne.* 2018;39(3):178-184.
  26. Coates TD. Physiology and pathophysiology of iron in hemoglobin-associated diseases. *Free Radic Biol Med.* 2014; 72:23-40.
  27. Kautz L, Jung G, Nemeth E, Ganz T. Erythroferrone contributes to recovery from anemia of inflammation. *Blood.* 2014; 124(16): 2569-2574.
  28. Koury MJ, Haase VH. Anaemia in kidney disease: harnessing hypoxia responses for therapy. *Nat Rev Nephrol.* 2015; 11(7):394-410.
  29. Gülçelik NE, Kayataş M. Importance of serum ferritin levels in patients with renal failure. *Nephron.* 2002; 92(1):230-231.
  30. Khan S, Amedia CA Jr. Economic burden of chronic kidney disease. *J Eval Clin Pract.* 2008; 14(3): 422-434.
  31. Hutchinson C, Geissler CA, Powell JJ, Bomford A. Proton pump inhibitors suppress absorption of dietary non-haem iron in hereditary haemochromatosis. *Gut.* 2007; 56(9): 1291-1295.