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Evaluation of anti-pyretic effect of sudarshana syrup on Wistar rats

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Abstract

Sudarshana powder (SP) is the most effective anti pyretic Ayurvedic preparation, widely used in Sri Lanka as well as India from the very early beginning of Ayurveda treatment for various ailments in children and adults. The main ingredient of the SP was *Swertia chirata* which was later replaced by *Andrographis paniculata (Burm. F.) Nees. Nees* (50%) along with other 52 ingredients (50%). The excellent properties of this powder are masked by the bitterness in administration to children. Therefore, this powder was developed into consumer friendly standard Ayurveda syrup with the aim of evaluating the antipyretic effects of Sudarshana Syrup (SS) in Wistar rats. Antipyretic activity was measured by Brewer's yeast induced pyrexia model. Rats (n=24) were fasted overnight with water *ad libitum* prior to experiments. Pyrexia was induced by subcutaneous injection of 20% w/v Brewer's yeast suspension (10 ml/kg) into the animals' dorsum region and the rectal temperature of each rat was measured using a digital thermometer after 18 h. Only rats that showed an increase in temperature of at least 0.7°C were used for the experiments. Animals were divided in to 4 groups (n=6 in each). Group I served as control (received distilled water); Group II received the standard drug (Paracetamol syrup, 6.26ml/kg). Group III received SP (0.78g/kg) and group IV received SS (6.25ml/kg). Temperature was measured at hourly intervals up to 4 h after drug administration. The results indicated that the newly developed syrup significantly ($p<0.05$) reduces the elevated body temperature of rats in comparison to control.

Biography

Weerakoon WASS is a lecturer in Department of Ayurveda Paediatrics, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo and Consultant (Assistant) Pediatrician in Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital Borella, Sri Lanka. She has completed her MPhil under Ayurvedic Paediatrics in University of Colombo and now she is doing her Ph.D. in University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.