

Original article

Pharmacokinetic profile of rutin after intramuscular administration in rats favours its *in vivo* anti-inflammatory activity in carrageenan-induced rodent model of inflammation

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Abstract

The study was planned to evaluate pharmacokinetic profile and *in vivo* anti-inflammatory property of rutin following intramuscular administration (100 mg/kg, intramuscular) in rats. Carrageenan-induced paw edema assay was carried out separately to study *in vivo* anti-inflammatory property of rutin. The plasma rutin concentration was assayed using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The pharmacokinetic parameters like the maximum plasma drug concentration (C_{max}), time for maximal concentration (T_{max}), elimination half-life ($t_{1/2\beta}$), apparent volume of distribution ($Vd_{(area)}$), total body clearance ($Cl_{(B)}$) and mean residence time (MRT) were 21.11 ± 0.46 μ g/ml, 1.83 ± 0.17 h, 9.11 ± 1.50 h, 16.34 ± 2.32 l/kg, 1.27 ± 0.04 l/h/kg and 4.79 ± 0.55 h, respectively. The drug concentration of 0.21 ± 0.02 μ g/ml in plasma was detected at 24 h. In carrageenan-induced paw edema assay, rutin (100 mg/kg) significantly decreased edema volume from 1 to 6 h in comparison to carrageenan group and vehicle group. Per cent inhibition of inflammation after 6 h of rutin administration was 29.94 ± 1.49 . Intramuscular administration of rutin produced satisfactory pharmacokinetic profile with promising *in vivo* anti-inflammatory activity in rats.

Keywords: Pharmacokinetic profile, anti-inflammatory activity, rutin, intramuscular, rat

1. Introduction

Inflammation is the complex biological response of vascular tissues to harmful stimuli such as pathogens, damaged cells or irritants. Inflammation is a protective attempt by the organism to remove the injurious stimuli as well as to initiate the healing process for the tissue (Jayakumari *et al.*, 2012). Currently available analgesic and anti-inflammatory agents include corticosteroids and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Khan *et al.*, 2015). Long term use of these drugs may cause side effects pertaining to liver and kidney (Bhadarka *et al.*, 2018). Thus, the discovery of new anti-inflammatory compounds is still on great demand by scientists in academia and industry. Drugs of herbal origin provide a rational means for the treatment of several ailments in human and animals (Nayanabhirama, 2016). It is important to mention that traditional medicinal systems are at a transitional stage in the development of

modern medicines in developing countries (Thakur *et al.*, 2018). Active principles from many herbs have shown promising anti-inflammatory activity. Amongst them, flavonoids have been reported to show promising anti-inflammatory properties, either *in vitro* or *in vivo* (Vasudevan *et al.*, 2007).

Rutin (3, 3', 4', 5, 7-pentahydroxyflavone-3-rhamnoglucoside) is a flavonol, abundantly found in plants, such as passion flower, buckwheat, tea, and apple, and also called as quercetin-3-rutinoside and sophorin (Kreft *et al.*, 1997). Rutin has been described as cell-protecting agents because of their antioxidant and antinociceptive and it was proposed as preventive effect of rutin on oxaliplatin-induced painful peripheral neuropathy based on their antioxidant properties (Azevedo *et al.*, 2013). Rutin as parent compound was not detected in plasma and absolute systemic bioavailability is negligible, following oral administration due to first pass metabolism (Day *et al.*, 1998; Jaganath *et al.*, 2006). Thus, looking to need of a study related to pharmacokinetic profile of rutin after intramuscular administration along with *in vivo* evaluation of its anti-inflammatory activity in animals, present study was planned to generate data related to disposition and *in vivo* anti-inflammatory efficacy of rutin in rodent model which would be useful for future research on therapeutic application of rutin.

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2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Experimental animals

The experiment was conducted in two sets on 54 male albino wistar rats weighing between 300 to 400 g. Rats were kept under constant observation for two weeks before the commencement of the experiment and subjected to clinical examination to exclude possibility of any disease. The animals were randomly divided into groups and kept in polypropylene cages. Standard ration and water was provided *ad libitum*. The study protocol was approved by Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC), College of Veterinary Science and A. H., NAU, Navsari. (No. NAU/NVC/IAEC/12/2017, dated:11/11/2017).

2.2 Drugs and chemicals

Rutin hydrate, meloxicam sodium (>98%) and lambda (λ) carrageenan were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, USA. Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), PEG200, methanol, acetonitrile, glacial acetic acid and ortho-phosphoric acid were purchased from Merck Specialties PVT. LTD., Mumbai. Ethanol was procured from store department of College of Veterinary Science and A.H., N.A.U., Navsari and used after triple distillation.

2.3 Experimental design for pharmacokinetic study

Six sets were made using 30 male rats. Each group comprise of five animals. A single dose of rutin (dissolved in vehicle containing DMSO, PEG200 and ethanol in 4:3:3 ratio) was given by intramuscular route to all animals at dose rate of 100 mg/kg of body weight. Blood samples (250 μ l) were collected from treated rats in K₃EDTA vials, at different time intervals, *i.e.*, 0 (before drug administration), 0.08 (5 min), 0.25 (15 min), 0.5 (30 min), 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 18, 24 and 36 h from retro orbital plexus under light anesthesia. Multiple numbers of rat were used for serial collection of blood at alternating time point. Blood samples were centrifuged at 5000 rpm for 10 min to separate plasma. Plasma samples were transferred to cryo-vials and then stored at -20°C. The plasma samples were used to know the concentration of rutin by using HPLC and data of plasma rutin

concentrations were used to calculate pharmacokinetic profile as described below.

2.4 HPLC analysis of rutin from plasma samples

For the precipitation of the plasma protein, acetonitrile and glacial acetic acid mixture (9:1 ratio) was added in plasma as 1:1 ratio and was mixed in a clean microcentrifuge tube on a vortex mixer for 1 min. It was followed by centrifugation for 15 min at 8000 rpm. The clean supernatant was transferred into inserts of automatic sampler vial, from which 20 μ l of supernatant was injected into high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system.

Plasma samples were analyzed within 24 h to quantify rutin using HPLC system by using procedure as described by Yang *et al.* (2013) with minor modifications. In brief, the HPLC apparatus of Shimadzu (Japan) comprised of binary gradient delivery pump (model LC - 20AP), diode array detector (model SPD M20A), auto sampler (model SIL 20A) and reverse phase C18 column (250 \times 4.6 mm ID). The mobile phase was mixture of 1% glacial acetic acid, methanol and acetonitrile (50:45:5 v/v) with pH of 3.07. Mobile phase was filtered by 0.2 μ size filter (Axiva, N66) and degassed by ultrasonication. The mobile phase was pumped into column at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min at ambient temperature and a detection wavelength of 257 nm. The total runtime was 10 min for each injection.

For plasma validation of HPLC method, initial stock solution of rutin was prepared by dissolving 2 mg rutin in 2 ml DMSO, PEG200 and ethanol (4:3:3). Final standards were prepared in drug-free plasma of rat. Quantification of rutin in plasma samples was done by reference to the resultant standard curve (Figure 1). The calibration curves showed good linearity over the concentration ranges 0.09 to 25 μ g/ml with a mean correlation coefficient (R^2) was 0.99. Representative chromatograms of blank plasma of rat, rutin standard (Retention time: 5.4 min) in plasma (3.125 μ g/ml) and 2 h post intramuscular administration of rutin (Retention time: 5.4 min) in rat are depicted in Figure 2. The precision and accuracy of the assay were assessed using samples at concentration of 12.50, 1.56, 0.39 and 0.09 μ g/ml. At all concentrations, the C.V. was less than 7.89 %. The lower limit of detection and limits of quantification of the drug was 0.02 μ g/ml and 0.09 μ g/ml, respectively.

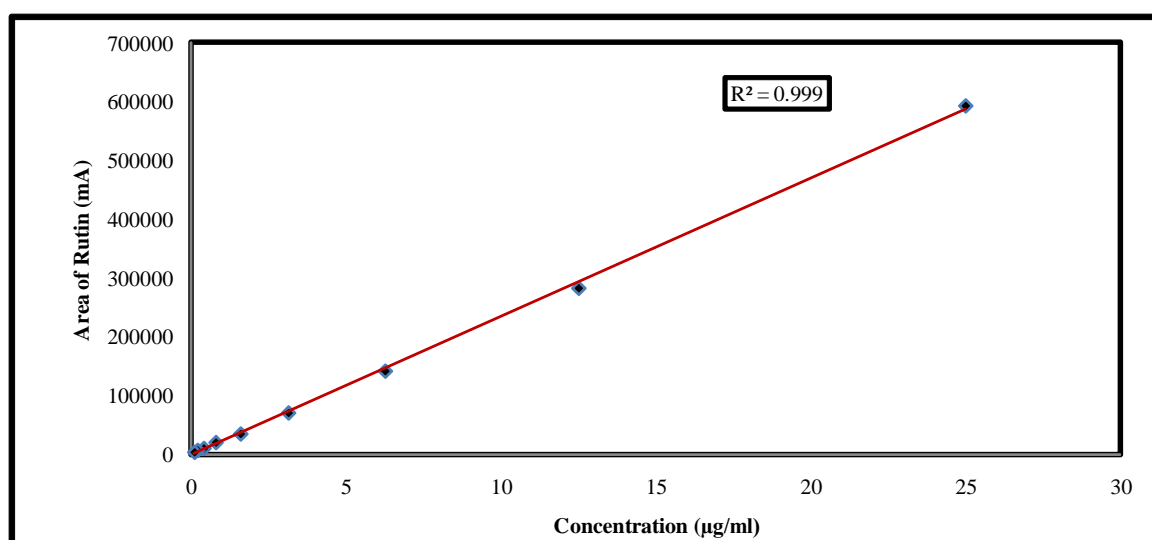


Figure 1: Standard curve of rutin in drug-free plasma of rats.

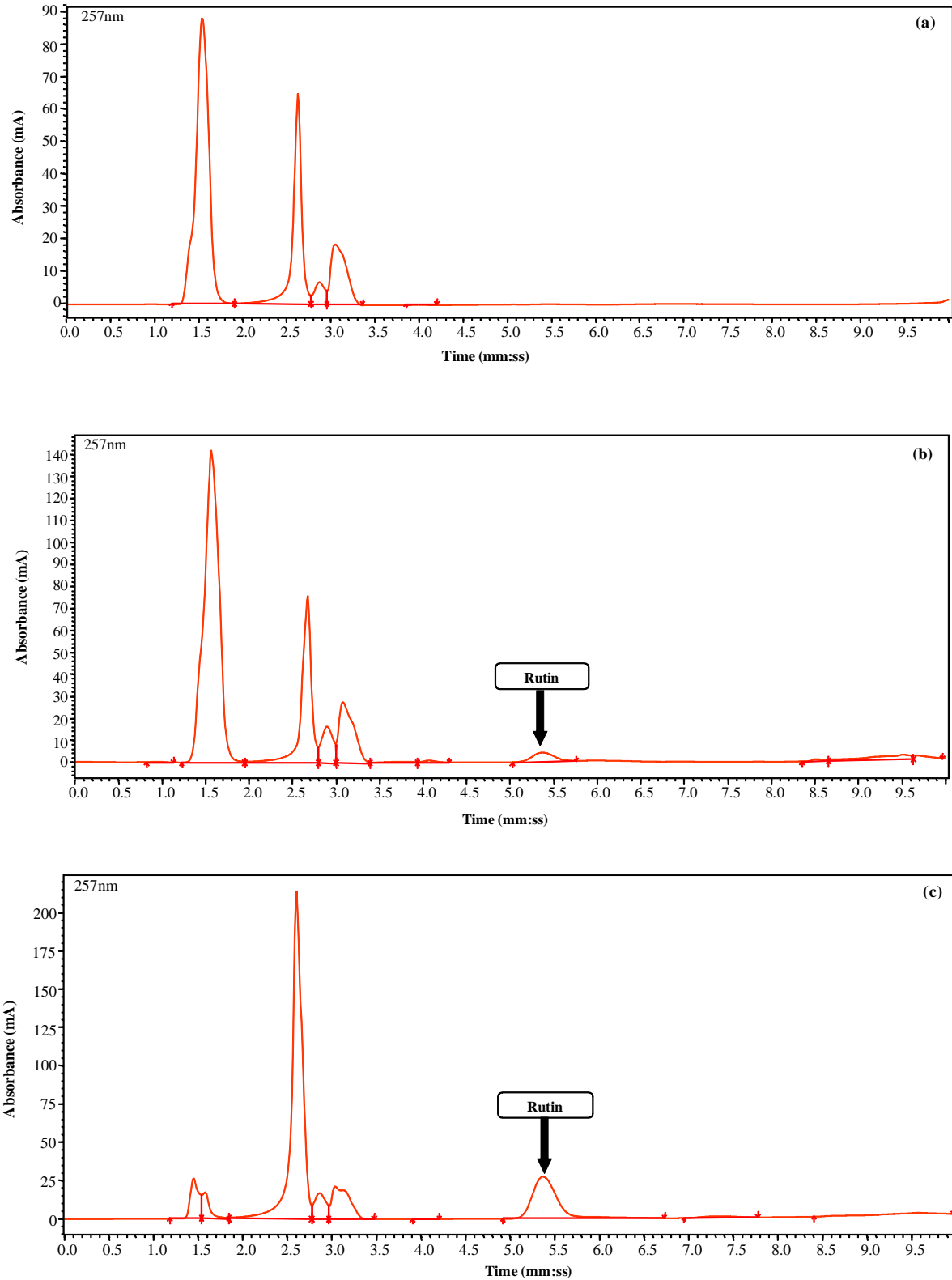


Figure 2: Representative chromatograms of (a) blank plasma of rat, (b) rutin standard (RT: 5.4 min) in plasma (3.125 µg/ml), (c) 2 h post intramuscular administration of rutin (RT: 5.4 min) in rat.

2.5 Calculation of pharmacokinetic parameters

Pharmacokinetic parameters were calculated as per standard methods (Baggot, 1977; Gibaldi and Perrier, 1982). Absorption rate constant (α) and elimination rate constant (β) were calculated by least square regression analysis method. Absorption half-life ($t_{1/2\alpha}$) and elimination half-life ($t_{1/2\beta}$) were calculated from $0.693/\alpha$ and $0.693/\beta$, respectively. Maximum drug concentration in plasma (C_{max}) and time of maximum observed concentration in plasma (T_{max}) were obtained from actual plasma concentrations of each rat. Area under curve ($AUC_{(0-\infty)}$) and area under the first moment of curve (AUMC) were calculated by linear trapezoidal rule. Apparent volume of distribution ($Vd_{(area)}/F$) was calculated from $(Dose \times F)/(\beta \times AUC)$. The value of total body clearance ($Cl_{(B)}$) was obtained using formula $\beta \times Vd_{(area)}$. Mean residence time (MRT) was obtained by dividing the value of AUMC by AUC.

2.6 Anti-inflammatory activity of rutin in carrageenan-induced paw edema

The carrageenan-induced paw edema test was used with slight modification as described previously (Suebsasana *et al.*, 2009). Experimental animals were divided into four groups ($n = 6$). All the animals were treated with 100 μ l of 1% lambda carrageenan solution in 0.9% normal saline subcutaneously into subplantar region of right hind paw. Half an hour before the carrageenan challenge, vehicle test and positive control drugs were injected *via* intramuscular route. Group I animals were treated intramuscularly with 200 μ l of DMSO: PEG200 (1:1) (vehicle control). Group II animals acted as carrageenan control, Group III animals were treated with meloxicam

(5 mg/kg, Intramuscular) and Group IV animals were treated with rutin (100 mg/kg Intramuscular). Make a mark on the left hind paw and volume of the edematous paw was measured using a plethysmometer after carrageenan treatment at 0, 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 h. The anti-inflammatory activities were calculated as the degree of paw edema (e) using the formula: $e = [(E_0 - E_t)/E_0] \times 100$ (where, E_0 = Paw volume at the baseline, E_t = Paw volume at a particular reading time of the right hind paw). The results obtained for the meloxicam and rutin treated groups were compared with the control for per cent inhibition of edema.

2.7 Statistical analysis

All data obtained for pharmacokinetic parameters and anti-inflammatory activity of rutin was presented as Mean \pm S.E. The data for percent inhibition of inflammation were suitably tabulated and analyzed by 't' test and carrageenan-induced rat paw edema volume (ml) for different treatment groups, were compared by using Duncan's new multiple range test (DNMRT). The levels of significance to observe difference were 0.05 and 0.01. The p values < 0.05 or < 0.01 were considered as statistically significant or highly significant, respectively.

3. Results

3.1 Pharmacokinetic profile of rutin

Rutin levels of plasma as a function of time schedule after its single intramuscular administration in rats is presented in Table 1, while semilogarithmic plots of the same have been presented in Figure 3. Pharmacokinetic parameters of rutin following single dose intramuscular administration of rutin in rats are shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Plasma concentration (μ g/ml) of rutin (100 mg/kg) following intramuscular administration in rats ($n = 6$)

Time after drug administration (h)	Plasma concentration (μ g/ml)						Mean \pm S.E
	Rat number						
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	
0.08	9.14	9.65	6.31	8.35	9.43	9.07	8.66 \pm 0.50
0.25	14.89	11.20	11.76	12.35	13.04	11.41	12.44 \pm 0.56
0.5	14.62	11.96	16.22	13.37	14.04	9.10	13.22 \pm 1.00
1	22.69	8.96	11.62	10.71	12.43	17.42	13.97 \pm 2.10
2	20.74	22.91	19.55	20.75	21.78	20.92	21.11 \pm 0.46
4	7.22	6.58	5.65	5.44	5.96	6.47	6.22 \pm 0.27
6	2.44	2.51	1.91	2.35	1.80	2.25	2.21 \pm 0.12
8	1.52	1.32	1.00	0.99	0.86	1.36	1.17 \pm 0.11
12	0.66	0.58	0.44	0.48	0.66	0.41	0.54 \pm 0.05
18	0.31	0.40	0.35	0.37	0.26	0.32	0.34 \pm 0.02
24	0.20	0.31	0.18	0.20	0.14	0.21	0.21 \pm 0.02

Following intramuscular administration of rutin, the drug concentration of 8.66 ± 0.50 μ g/ml was observed at 0.08 h. The mean peak plasma drug concentration of 21.11 ± 0.46 μ g/ml was achieved at 2 h which declined rapidly to 6.22 ± 0.27 μ g/ml at 4 h. The drug concentration of 0.21 ± 0.02 μ g/ml in plasma was detected at 24 h and beyond, then the drug was not detected in plasma. Following intramuscular administration of the rutin, the distribution half-life ($t_{1/2\alpha}$) and elimination half-life ($t_{1/2\beta}$) were 1.58 ± 0.11 h and 9.11 ± 1.50 h, respectively. The mean apparent volume of

distribution ($Vd_{(area)}$), total body clearance ($Cl_{(B)}$) and mean residence time (MRT) were 16.34 ± 2.32 l/kg, 1.27 ± 0.04 l/h/kg and 4.79 ± 0.55 h, respectively.

3.2 Anti-inflammatory activity of rutin

The mean anti-inflammatory activity of meloxicam and rutin was assessed using the carrageenan-induced paw edema model in rats. Change in the paw edema volume following treatment with vehicle, meloxicam and rutin is shown in Table 3. In carrageenan-induced

paw edema model, rutin significantly decreased edema volume from 1 to 6 h in comparison to carrageenan group and vehicle group. Moreover, it was observed that rutin produced comparable effect

to that produced by meloxicam up to 2 h but thereafter effect of meloxicam was significantly higher compared to rutin (Table 4 and Figure 4).

Table 2: Pharmacokinetic parameters of rutin (100 mg/kg) following intramuscular administration in rats (n = 6)

PK Parameter	Unit	Rat number						Mean \pm S.E
		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	
α	h ⁻¹	0.43	0.57	0.35	0.42	0.41	0.52	0.45 \pm 0.03
β	h ⁻¹	0.08	0.04	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.07	0.08 \pm 0.01
$t_{1/2\alpha}$	h	1.60	1.23	1.99	1.66	1.68	1.33	1.58 \pm 0.11
$t_{1/2\beta}$	h	9.05	16.07	6.36	6.93	6.54	9.70	9.11 \pm 1.50
C_{max}	μ g/ml	20.74	22.91	19.55	20.75	21.78	20.92	21.11 \pm 0.46
T_{max}	h	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.83 \pm 0.17
$AUC_{(0-\infty)}$	μ g.h/ml	90.03	84.69	72.01	73.59	75.81	80.38	79.42 \pm 2.85
AUMC	μ g.h ² /ml	388.13	633.05	296.19	321.34	289.02	374.21	383.66 \pm 52.53
$Vd_{(area)}$	l/kg	14.51	27.37	12.74	13.58	12.45	17.41	16.34 \pm 2.32
$Cl_{(B)}$	l/h/kg	1.11	1.18	1.39	1.36	1.32	1.24	1.27 \pm 0.04
MRT	h	4.31	7.47	4.11	4.37	3.81	4.66	4.79 \pm 0.55

α : Absorption rate constant; β : Elimination rate constant; $t_{1/2\alpha}$: Absorption half-life; $t_{1/2\beta}$: Elimination half-life; C_{max} : Maximum drug concentration; T_{max} : Time of maximum observed concentration in plasma; $AUC_{(0-\infty)}$: Area under curve; AUMC: Area under first moment of curve; $Vd_{(area)}$: apparent volume of distribution; $Cl_{(B)}$: Total body clearance; MRT: Mean residence time.

Table 3: Effect of rutin on carrageenan-induced rat paw edema volume (ml)

Groups	0 h	1 h	2 h	4 h	5 h	6 h
Vehicle	1.84 \pm 0.03 ^b	2.59 \pm 0.06 ^b	3.00 \pm 0.04 ^c	3.48 \pm 0.03 ^c	4.02 \pm 0.03 ^c	4.35 \pm 0.08 ^c
Carrageenan	1.94 \pm 0.02 ^c	2.67 \pm 0.09 ^b	2.94 \pm 0.02 ^c	3.51 \pm 0.09 ^c	4.16 \pm 0.06 ^c	4.29 \pm 0.05 ^c
Meloxicam	1.73 \pm 0.01 ^a	2.02 \pm 0.03 ^a	2.21 \pm 0.03 ^a	2.29 \pm 0.06 ^a	2.51 \pm 0.07 ^a	2.43 \pm 0.07 ^a
Rutin	1.83 \pm 0.03 ^b	2.10 \pm 0.06 ^a	2.36 \pm 0.02 ^b	2.82 \pm 0.09 ^b	3.19 \pm 0.08 ^b	3.01 \pm 0.05 ^b

Data are expressed as Mean \pm SE (n = 6); Means bearing different superscripts within a column (between treatment groups) differ significantly ($p < 0.01$).

Table 4: Percent inhibition of inflammation after meloxicam and rutin administration in male albino wistar rats

Groups	Percent inhibition of inflammation (Mean \pm SE)				
	1 h	2 h	4 h	5 h	6 h
Meloxicam	23.99 \pm 3.41	24.70 \pm 0.99	34.70 \pm 1.85	39.46 \pm 1.82	43.52 \pm 1.35
Rutin	21.03 \pm 2.46	19.53 \pm 0.65	19.62 \pm 2.72	23.14 \pm 2.31	29.94 \pm 1.49
T value	0.705	4.367**	4.582**	5.546**	6.755**
P value	0.497	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SE (n = 6); * Significant ($p < 0.05$); ** highly significant ($p < 0.01$) difference between two group.

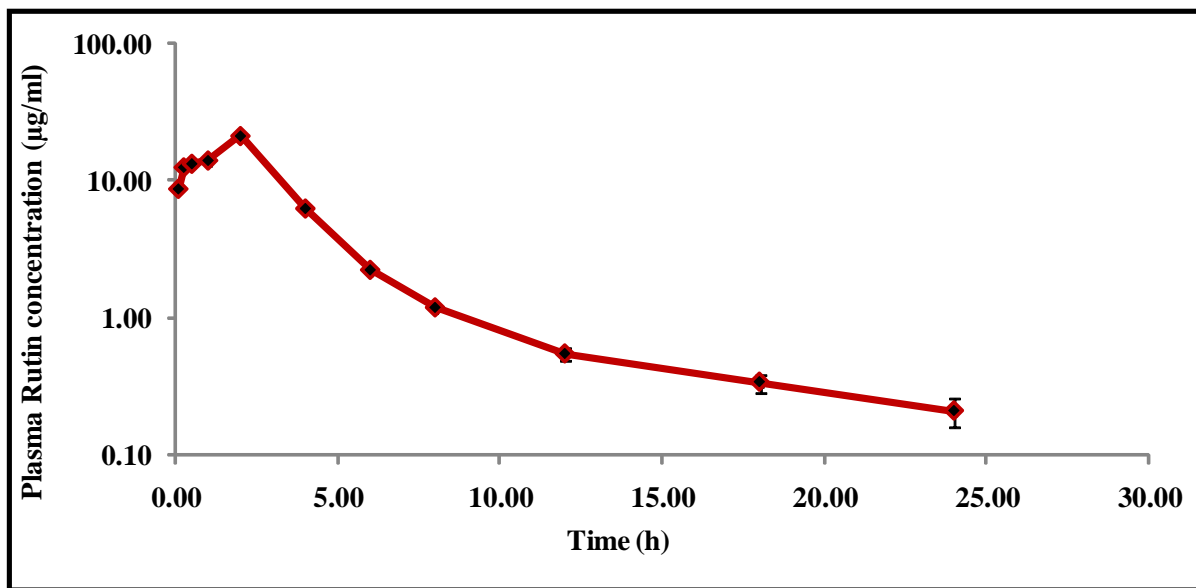


Figure 3: Semi logarithmic plot of rutin concentration in plasma versus time following single dose intramuscular administration of rutin (100 mg/kg) in rats. Each point represents Mean \pm S.E.

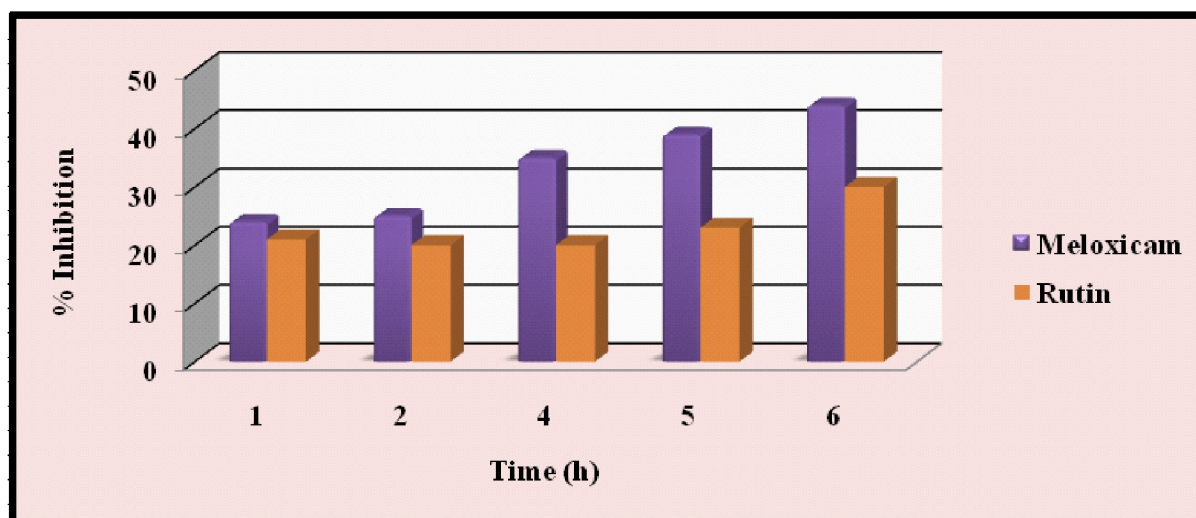


Figure 4: Per cent inhibition of inflammation by meloxicam and rutin at different time interval. Values are expressed as mean \pm SE (n = 6).

4. Discussion

The pharmacokinetic and anti-inflammatory effect of rutin after intramuscular administration in rats has been determined and reported for the first time ever. The mean peak plasma drug concentration (C_{max}) of 21.11 ± 0.46 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ was achieved at 2 h. Contrary to the present findings, low C_{max} of 1.55 ± 0.19 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, following oral administration of mulberry leaf aqueous extract (at a dose containing 34.86 mg/kg rutin) in rats (Yang *et al.*, 2013) and 0.09 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ after oral administration of rutin in healthy volunteers (Erlund *et al.*, 2000). It is evident from previous investigations that when rutin as pure compound when administered orally, undergo deglycosylation by intracellular cytoplasmic β -glucosidase prior to absorption and subjected to passive diffusion of the resulting

flavonoid aglycone (quercetin) through epithelial cells, which is supported by increased hydrophobicity. Moreover, rutin (quercetin-3-O-rutinoside) is deglycosylated by microfloral rhamnosidases and β -glucosidases present in the colon, and absorption of rhamnoglucosides is delayed and appears to be less efficient (Hsiu *et al.*, 2002; Spencer *et al.*, 1999). In addition, it is reported that parent form of rutin was not detected and absolute systemic bioavailability of rutin was essentially zero, following oral administration (Day *et al.*, 1998; Jaganath *et al.*, 2006). The concentration of rutin in rats achieved in the study, following intramuscular administration could be considered significant. The apparent volume of distribution ($V_{d(\text{area})}$) of rutin 16.34 ± 2.32 l/kg in rats indicates extensive tissue uptake. This finding is supported as rutin and glucuronidated rutin were absorbed differently by the

basolateral and apical membranes, and rutin showed differential permeability through the apical and basolateral sides (Zhang *et al.*, 2013). Approximately, 33% of the rutin was metabolized to glucuronidated rutin, and the intracellular concentration of glucuronidated rutin was much lower than that of parent rutin. Contrary to the present findings, very low mean apparent volume of administration ($Vd_{(area)}$) of 0.02 l/kg (Zhang *et al.*, 2016), 0.08 ± 0.03 l/kg (Wang *et al.*, 2010) and 1.58 l/kg, following administration of *Ginkgo biloba* extracts (Tang *et al.*, 2009) in rat and 2.62 l/kg in dog (Wu *et al.*, 2012) has been reported, following intravenous injection of rutin. This indicates that pure form of rutin distributes extensively in the body. In support of above findings, total body clearance of 1.27 ± 0.04 l/h/kg with an estimated mean elimination half-life ($t_{1/2\beta}$) of 9.11 ± 1.50 h in rats were observed by us. Present observation of total body clearance is in agreement with little higher total body clearance of 2.64 l/h/kg observed in dogs, following intravenous administration (Wu *et al.*, 2012). Contrary to the observation of the present study, very low total body clearance of 0.01 l/h/kg (Chen *et al.*, 2015), 0.32 ± 0.01 l/h/kg (Wang *et al.*, 2010), 0.25 ± 0.04 l/h/kg (Zhang *et al.*, 2016) and 0.66 l/h/kg (Tang *et al.*, 2009) in rats and 5.56 ± 0.80 l/h/kg (Liu *et al.*, 2011) in rabbits were observed, following intravenous administration of rutin. Present findings are in agreement with elimination half-life 11.80 ± 3.10 h, following oral administration of rutin in humans (Yang *et al.*, 2013) and 10.36 ± 7.34 h, following oral administration of mulberry leaf aqueous extract in rats (Graefe *et al.*, 2001). However, following intravenous administration of rutin, short elimination half-life of 0.05 ± 0.01 h (Zhang *et al.*, 2016), 0.38 ± 0.07 h (Chen *et al.*, 2015) and 0.94 ± 0.02 h (Wang *et al.*, 2010) in rats and 2.13 ± 0.59 h in rabbits were also reported. In addition, Wu *et al.* (2012) reported short elimination half-life of rutin 0.69 h, following intravenous administration of *Ginkgo biloba* extracts in beagle dogs. In the present study, longer elimination half-life, high apparent volume of distribution and slow total body clearance of rutin, following intramuscular injection may be due to high tissue distribution owing to its high lipid solubility.

Carrageenan-induced inflammation is a biphasic phenomenon. It is evident that early phase (1-2 h) of the carrageenan-induced inflammatory model is mainly mediated by histamine, serotonin and increased synthesis of prostaglandins in the damaged tissue surroundings. The late phase is sustained by prostaglandin release and mediated by bradykinin, leukotrienes, polymorph nuclear cells and prostaglandins produced by tissue macrophages (Winter *et al.*, 1962). In the present study, following intramuscular administration of rutin in inflammatory model significantly reduced the inflammation, caused by carrageenan in rats which could be comparable to effect produced by meloxicam up to 2 h. However, the reduction in oedema in rutin treated animals was slightly lower as compared to meloxicam which might be due to low therapeutic effective meloxicam concentration than that of rutin as well as difference in pharmacokinetic profile of both agents. Moreover, it has been observed that rutin attenuated the inflammation in the liver by down-regulating the CCl₄ induced activation of nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB), tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) and cyclooxygenase (COX-2), following intraperitoneal injection and which may be attributed to the presence of a rutinoside moiety in position 3 of the C ring (Domitrovic *et al.*, 2012). In addition, rutin (80 mg/kg, intraperitoneal) was extremely effective in reducing edema, nodules and ankyloses than quercetin and hesperidin on

adjuvant arthritis in rats (Guardia *et al.*, 2001). Following oral administration of rutin at a dose rate of 100 mg/kg reduced rat paw swelling, starting 2 h after lambda-carrageenan injection (Selloum *et al.*, 2003). Rutin isolated (1.5% w/w) from extract of *Cardispermum halicacabum* leaves exhibited anti-inflammatory activity in chronic inflammatory model in rats (Venketash Babu and Krishnakumari, 2005). Rutin isolated from methanol extract of *Ficus pumila* significantly decreased the λ-carrageenan-induced mouse paw edema volume at the concentrations of 0.5 and 1 g/kg (Liao *et al.*, 2012). Carrageenan induced paw edema was significantly ($p < 0.01$) decreased at 3rd and 4th h at the dose of 10 mg/kg of rutin in rats (Narwaria *et al.*, 2015). Moreover, pharmacokinetic properties of rutin following intramuscular administration in rats support the anti-inflammatory activity of rutin in carrageenan-induced inflammation at paw.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, after single dose intramuscular administration of rutin (100 mg/kg) in rat, therapeutic effective concentrations were maintained up to 24 h post drug administration. In rats, longer elimination half-life of parent form of rutin with good volume of distribution at a dose of 100 mg/kg, intramuscularly significantly decreased edema volume within 6 h. Further, extensive study is required to resolve the exact mechanism of action of the rutin.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that no conflict of interest exists in the course of conducting this research. All authors had final decision regarding the manuscript and the decision to submit the findings for publication.

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