

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF LEAD CHLORIDE ON KIDNEY OF *GAMBUSIA AFFINIS*

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to evaluate the effect of sublethal concentrations of lead chloride on physiological and histopathological studies in *Gambusia affinis*. A total of 500 fish were collected from the bank of the river east of Mosul city. The fish in the aquarium were divided into five groups (control, acute exposure(20,25mg/l) and chronic exposure(5,10mg/l)). The bioaccumulation of lead in acute and chronic periods of exposure showed a significant difference in values between control and treatment. The greatest level was seen in the kidney of fish treated with lead dichloride at 10 mg/l for 30 days. The level of antioxidant Glutathione has a significant decrease in different kidneys of fish treated with $PbCl_2$ exposed to acute and chronic concentrations. The lowest decrease was seen in kidneys of fish treated with $PbCl_2$ at 10 mg/l for a month. At the same time, a significant increase in lipid peroxidation (malondialdehyde) level was seen in all kidney treated with $PbCl_2$. Histological study of the kidney showed varying degrees of pathological lesions. The glomeruli in the kidney shrank, and degeneration of Bowman's capsule. The Pb accumulation increases with increasing concentration and period of exposure. Both acute and chronic effects caused a change in the level of antioxidants and histopathological changes in kidney of the fish. Histopathological study may be a useful indicator for determining the extent of aquatic contamination. It could be concluded that the kidney changes caused by lead exposures in fish may serve as a biomarker for the contamination of sub-lethal levels of heavy metals and other anthropogenic contaminants.

Keywords: toxicity, heavy metals, sub lethal concentration, acute exposure, chronic exposure

الخشاب

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التأثير الفسلجي والمرضي النسيجي لكلوريد الرصاص في كلى *Gambusia affinis*

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مدرس

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المستخلص

هدفت الدراسة إلى تقييم تأثير التراكيز تحت القاتلة لـ $PbCl_2$ على التأثيرات الفسلجية والمرضية النسيجية في كلى اسماك *Gambusia affinis*. استخدمت 500 سمكة تم جمعها من ضفة النهر شرق الموصل. وزعت الاسماك في الاحواض في خمسة مجاميع(السيطرة، مجموعة التعرض الحاد و20 و25 ملغم/لترو مجموعة التعرض المزمن 5 و10 ملغم/لتر). أظهر التراكم الأحيائي للرصاص في فترات التعرض الحادة والمزمنة اختلافاً كبيراً في القيم بين مجموعتي السيطرة والمعاملة. وجد أكبر معدل للتراكم الحيوي في كلية الأسماك المعاملة بثنائي كلوريد الرصاص بمعدل 10 ملغم / لتر لمدة 30 يوماً. حدث انخفاض في مستوى مضاد الأكسدة الكلوتاتايون في كلى الأسماك المعاملة بـ $PbCl_2$ بسبب تأثيرات التعرض الحاد والمزمن. وإن أقوى انخفاض للكلوتاتايون وجد في كلى الأسماك المعاملة بـ $PbCl_2$ بتركيز 10 ملغم / لتر لمدة شهر. في الوقت نفسه، لوحظت زيادة كبيرة في مستوى بيروكسيد الدهون (مالون ثنائي الديهايد) في جميع الاسماك المعاملة بـ $PbCl_2$. أظهرت التغيرات النسيجية المرضية للكلى درجات متفاوتة من الآفات المرضية. تضمنت انكماش الكبيبات الكلوية، وتمزق محفظة بومان. يزداد تراكم المعادن مع زيادة التركيز وفترة التعرض. تسبب كل من التأثيرات الحادة والمزمنة في حدوث تغيير في مستوى مضادات الأكسدة والتغيرات النسيجية المرضية في بعض أعضاء الاسماك قيد الدراسة. قد تكون الاختبارات النسيجية مؤشر لتحديد مدى التلوث المائي. يمكن الاستنتاج أن التغيرات الكلوية الناتجة عن تلوث الأسماك بالرصاص قد تكون بمثابة مؤشر حيوي لتلوث المستويات شبه المميتة من المعادن الثقيلة وغيرها من الملوثات البشرية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: السمية، المعادن الثقيلة، التراكيز تحت القاتلة، التعرض الحاد، التعرض المزمن

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INTRODUCTION

Fish are an important indicator in aquatic environments, especially when evaluating the lethal hazards of human use (2, 22). Pollutants picked up by an organism are disseminated to various organs of the fish due to their biochemical diversity (23). Fish tissues such as muscle, liver, gonads, and gills have been used in heavy metal in many ways (37). Metals are unrelenting contaminants, and they aggregate in groundwater, water, sedimentary rocks, and figsynthetic chains (32). Heavy metal ingestion by submerged species may have a long-term effect on ecosystem nutrient cycling. Heavy metals may also have a major impact on the of growth rate of major carp (15,33). For ensuring the quality of food and protection, it is vital to keep track of all possible ecosystem contaminations and their effects on food webs (6 ,27). Also, Trace metals in low concentrations may cause residual stress., which does not cause the individual fish to die but does cause the fish's size and weight to decrease (35). Lead (Pb), among other heavy metals, is one of the most toxic pollutants in the marine setting. Lead emissions come from a variety of sources, including lead ore mining and smelting, industrial effluents, fertilizers, pesticides, and sewage waste (4,30). The Pb can enter a fish's body through a number of pathways, including the skin, gills, and respiratory tract (21). Heavy metal is characterized by its ability to accumulate in the environment and the difficulty of eliminating its effects. Therefore, these toxic substances are harmful to the aquatic ecosystem and to humans; When it passes up the food chain, it comes into contact with it (7). Mosquito fish is a small fish native to the southern United States that possesses a polytrophic system, in which feeding varies among detritus, planktons, and small invertebrates , It is one of the most common types of high temperatures (11).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study aimed to investigate the accumulation level of lead in the kidney, determination the GSH activity measuring the lipid peroxidation, and and studying histopathological changes following exposure to PbCl₂ in *Gambusia affinis*.

A. Specimens Preparation

A total of 500 fish, *G. affinis* (average weighed 0.2 g, length 2.0 cm) were collected from the coasts of Tigris in Mosul city. Fish were acclimated for at least two weeks in laboratory conditions. The animals were held in glass aquaria of tap water that had been dechlorinated. A total of 20 fishes were put in dechlorinated tap water as a control group, and twenty fish were put in the glass aquariums (30x30x40 cm); concentrations of PbCl₂ 5,10 mg/l for long term exposure (15 days and month) and two concentrations lead chloride 25,20 mg/l for a short exposure (24 hours and four days), with three replicates for each treatment.

B. Determination of the level PbCl₂ accumulation, GSH, and MDA

The concentration of PbCl₂ accumulated in the kidneys was measured using of Vosylien (35). Estimation GSH level using alman method (14). Method was relied upon (34) to determination of MDA level.

C. histopathology study

Following the technique of Suvarna (31), tissue samples were subsequently processed to study histopathological changes. A microtome was used to cut tissue into 5 mm sections (Histo-line MR 2258). Ribbons of tissue slices made of paraffin wax were soaked in hot water (45 C°) for a while before being put on a slide containing adhesive materials such as albumen and glycerine. Tissue-filled slides were baked overnight at 37 C°. The slides were placed in each for three minutes in xylene using clearing material. Immerse the slide for 1–2 minutes at a time in ethanol alcohol. Hematoxylin and Eosin were used to stain the slides for 4–6 minutes. Under a light microscope, the slides were mounted with Canada balsam and coverslips, figgraphed, and histological alterations were compared to control histology slides at magnification (400X).

D. Statistical analysis

Graphpad prism 5 was used to analyze data in this study. Different letters indicate statistically relevant discrepancies between different therapies and controls. Analysis of variance in the same row have significantly different values (Tukey test, P< 0.05).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of the current study is clarified the occurrence of a significant increase in the

amount of lead accumulating in the kidneys and that the accumulation in the period of chronic exposure is more than in the acute

exposure. The largest bioaccumulation of PbCl₂ was seen in the fish treated with 10 mg/dl (Table 1)(Fig.1,2).

Table 1. Bioaccumulation of PbCl₂ in kidneys of fishes(mean±SD), level of GSH and MDA

test	c	20mg/l 24h	20mg/l 96h	25 mg/l 24h	25mg/l 96h	5mg/l 15days	5mg/l 30days	10mg/l 15days	10mg/l 30days
Accum. µg/g dry weight	0.054±0.01	0.092±0.002	0.152±0.02	0.172±0.01	0.200±0.01	0.214±0.002	0.290±0.005	0.456±0.1h	0.571±0.2i
GSH nmol/g	2724±20a	2615±62ab	2487±10ac	2366±33ad	2115±12ae	1010±10af	985±10ag	869±15h	762±22i
MDA nmol/g	150±20a	180±10ab	195±16c	230±20d	285±10e	325±12f	350±20g	376±22h	390±15i

• Major variations at P<0.05 are indicated by a different letters.

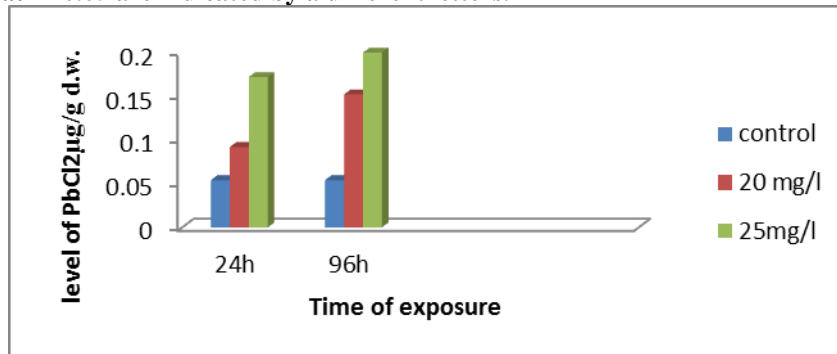


Figure1. Accumulation of lead on kidney of *G. affinis* in Acute exposure

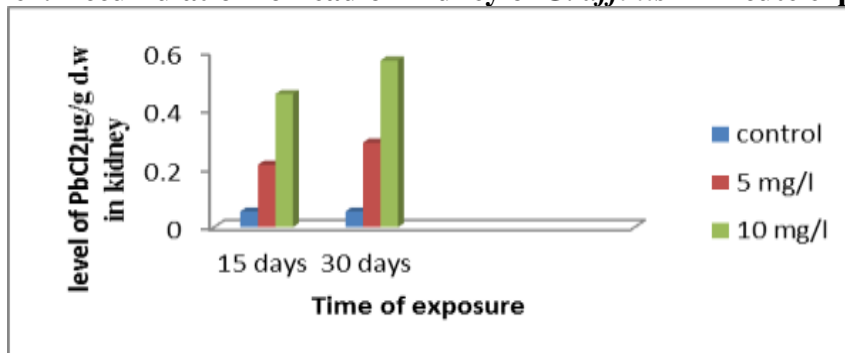


Figure2. Bioaccumulation of PbCl₂ in kidney of *G. affinis* in chronic exposure

Activity of antioxidants (GSH) significantly decreased in different concentration in both acute and chronic exposure of fish to PbCl₂(Table 1)(Fig 3,4).

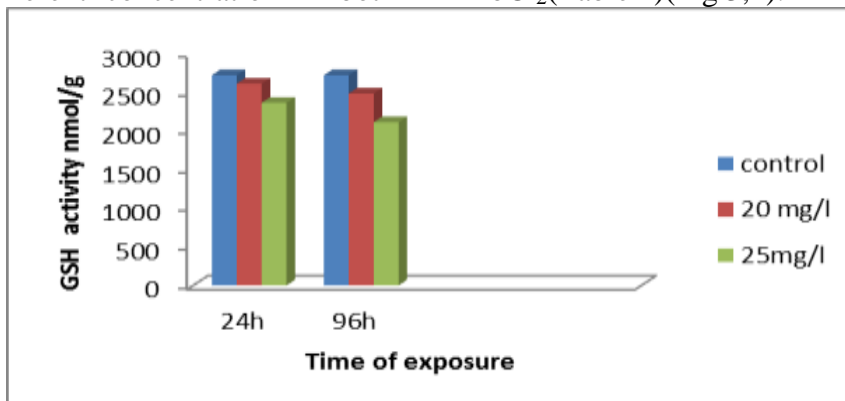


Figure3. GSH level activity in kidney of *G. affinis* in acute exposure

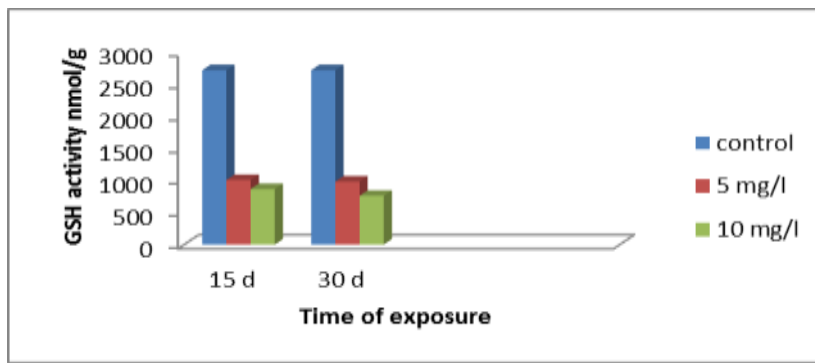


Figure 4. GSH level in kidney activity of *G. affinis* in chronic exposure

Result of the current study indicated a concentration for all periods (Table 1)(Fig significant increase in MDA level in all 5,6).

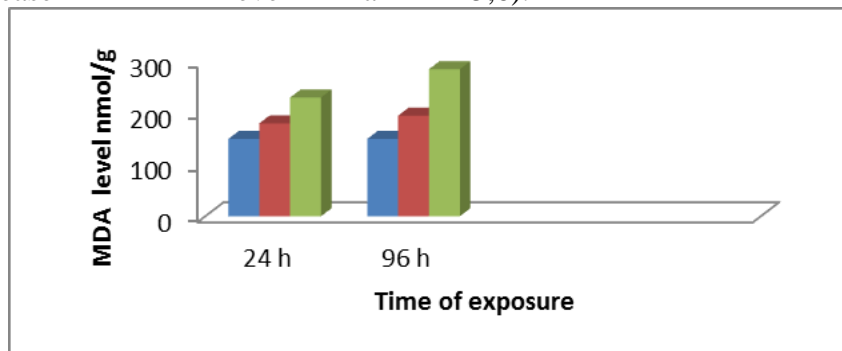


Figure 5. Acute effects of lead exposure on MDA level in kidney of *G. affinis*

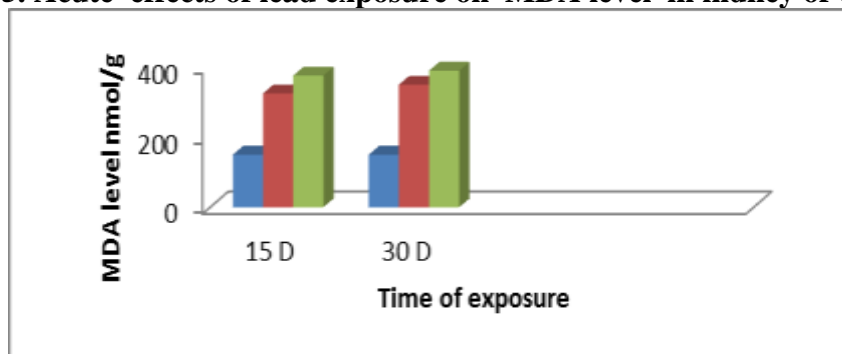


Figure 6. Chronic effects of lead exposure on MDA level in kidney of *G. affinis*

Lead causes oxidative damage at higher concentrations, which can impact the cell membrane directly. The balance of tissue and cellular components between the production and extraction of ROS (reactive oxygen species), which causes injury to the membrane, DNA, and enzymes, are involved in the process of lead-induced oxidative stress (28). Glutathione is an antioxidant-rich in the Sulfhydryl group. It gives it a distinctive electron-giving property and thus gives an electron to the active oxygen species / free radicals, which easily oxidizes GSSG. This rapid use of both GST and GSH leads to a decrease in their levels (18). Glutathione binds to the metal lead. And thus, it works to protect cells from its negative effects(17). Earlier studies have clearly shown that exposure Depending on the species, GSH levels in

organisms have risen or fallen as a result of organic pollutants. Types of exposure, duration of exposure, and dosage (10). Oxidative stress causes damage to cell components by active oxygen species arising from the influence of heavy metals. To avoid pathological consequences as a result of the interaction between biological molecules and active oxygen species, glutathione is used by cells for detoxification The liver is one of the most important tissues that makes GSH, and it releases it into other tissues such as the gills, brain, muscles, and kidneys. The gills are the organs most exposed to water contaminated with heavy metals, which can penetrate their delicate epithelial cells, causing low levels of glutathione , In case of acute oxidative stress, the toxic effects of pollutants overwhelm the antioxidant defenses of fish(29). MDA is a

degradation of the peroxidation of the lipid. It is also an important biomarker of the toxins in fish that exposure to toxins (5, 38). Abd El-satar et al (1) reported that the effect of Pb(CH₃COO)₂ on catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*). They noticed a considerable rise in the amount of MDA in the serum of these fish. A study by Nourian et al (24) who found increased the concentration of MDA in serum of *Cyprinus carpio* after exposure to lead.

Histological study

The kidney involved in excretion activities in control fish is made up of a large number of nephrons. A renal corpuscle and a coiled uriniferous tubule make up each nephron. The glomerulus and Bowman's capsule made up the corpuscle (fig.7A,B). The histological examination of renal tissue of treated fish at the concentration of 20mg/l for 24h showed swelling of epithelial cells lining renal tubules, leading to lumen stenosis at renal tubules and infiltration of inflammatory cells (fig.7C). At a concentration of 25mg/l for 24h, there was an infiltration of inflammatory cells in the interstitial tissues, degeneration, necrosis, and sloughing of epithelial cells with interstitial

hemorrhage (fig.7D). The histological changes of renal tissue of treated fish at a concentration of 20mg/l for 96h showed severe changes characterized by severe infiltration of inflammatory cells in the interstitial tissue (fig.7E). Whereas, at a concentration of 25mg/l for 96h, there were sloughing of epithelial cells lining the renal tubules with severe hemorrhage in the interstitial tissue and necrosis (fig.7F). While the group of fish treated with 5mg/l for 15 days showed severe diffused interstitial infiltration of inflammatory cells (interstitial nephritis) (fig.7G). At 10mg/l for the same time, it founded acute necrosis of epithelial cells lining the tubules of kidney, infiltration of leucocyte cells, and hemorrhage (fig.7H). After 30 days, it showed focal inflammatory cells infiltration between the tubules and necrosis at a concentration of 5mg/l (fig.7I). Whereas fish exposure to the concentration of 10mg/l for a month, showed increased at the cellularity of glomerular tufts, which led to Bowman's space stenosis, necrosis of lining renal epithelial tubules, degeneration, and severe hemorrhage in the interstitial tissue (fig.7J).

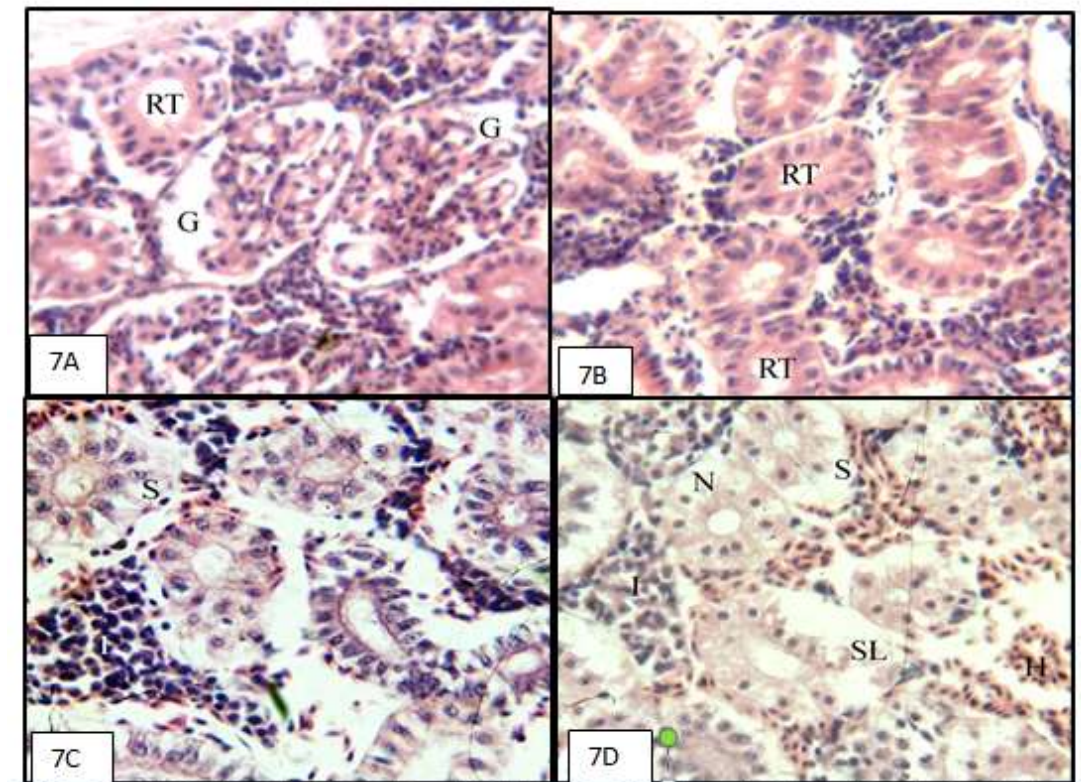


Fig (7A): the structure of normal kidney in the *G. affinis* ;

Fig (7B): Structure of the kidney in the *G. affinis*,400X

Fig (7C): Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 20mg/l PbCl₂ for 24h

Fig (7D): Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 25mg/l PbCl₂ for 24h.

Abbreviations: G= Glomerulus; RT= Renal tubules; I= Infiltration of inflammatory cells; S= Swelling; N= Necrosis; SL= Sloughing.

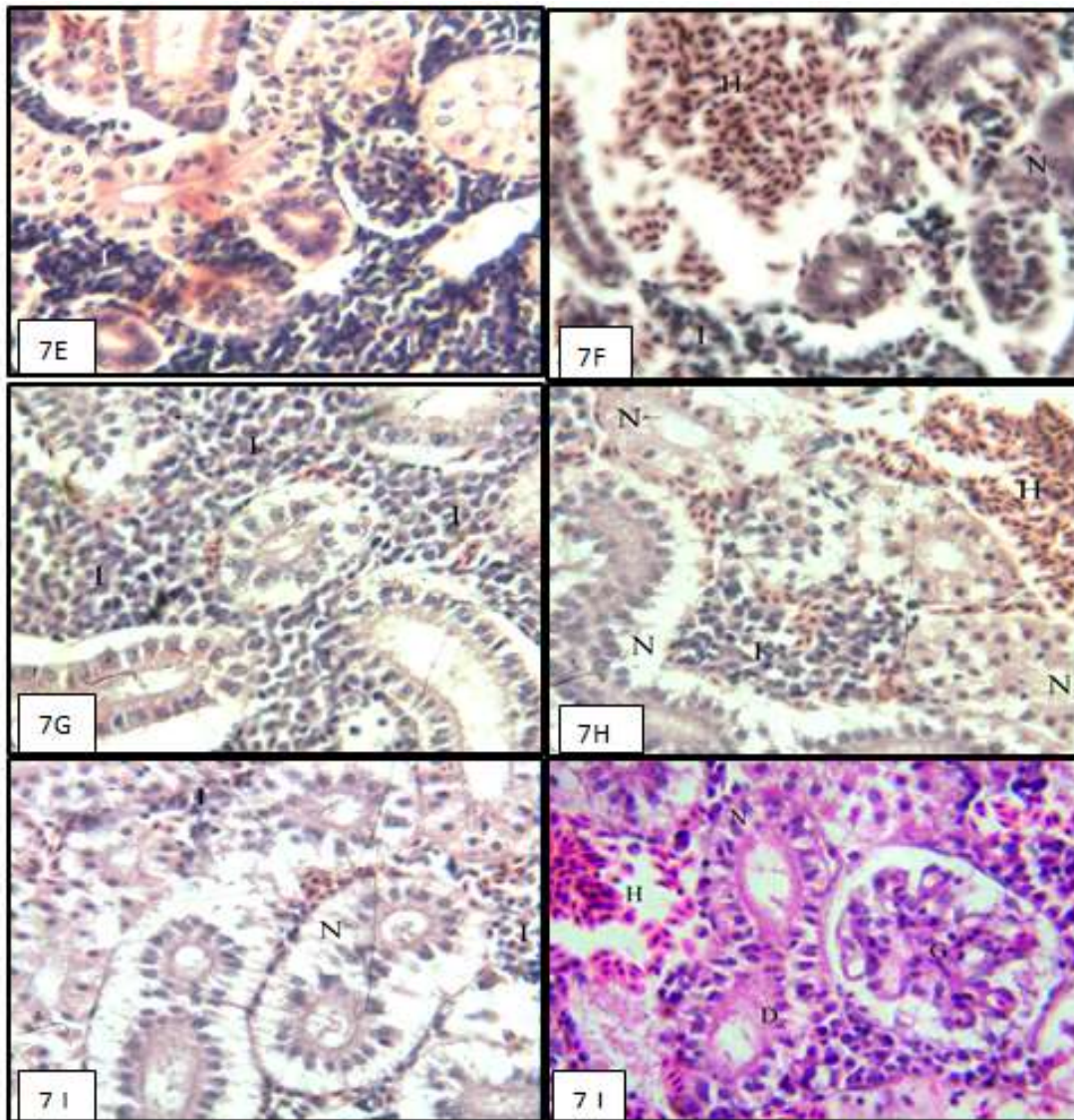


Fig (7E). Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 25mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 24h; **Fig (7F).** Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 25mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 96h; **Fig (7G).** Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 5mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 15d; **Fig (7H).** Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 10mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 15d; **Fig (7 I).** Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 5mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 30d; **Fig (7J).** Histological changes of the kidney in the *G. affinis* at 10mg/l $PbCl_2$ for 30d. Abbreviations: G= Glomerulus; I= Infiltration of inflammatory cells; N= Necrosis; H= hemorrhage; D= Degeneration, 400X

The kidney is among the most body tissue for metal pollution detoxifying and removal. (13) , Azmat *et al* (9) explained that The kidney was a good metal pollution indicator. Heavy metals accumulate in the aquatic environment, and in the bodies of fish, it is depends on the properties of the minerals and on environmental conditions , The toxic effect usually occurs when the rate of absorption exceeds the mechanism of metabolism, storage and detoxification (26). Previous studies have identified the accumulation of $PbCl_2$, induced by antioxidants and histological changes in kidneys of fish that exposed to the toxins (12,14,36). The study by Mirmazloomi et al

(20) also showed that exposing *Cyprinus carpio* fish to lead acetate caused an increase in the level of MDA in the liver, kidney, and brain of these fish. Experimental fish kidney sections revealed necrosis in renal tubular cells and a weakened glomerulus in the current sample. These findings were in agreement with Al-Balawi et al (3), who studied effects of lead acetate on histopathology of kidney of *Clarias gariepinus* and reported That glomerulus of *C. gariepinus* showed the most significant improvement. There was glomerular expansion, which resulted in Bowman's space being reduced. Tubular necrosis was the most common alteration in

the tubules. These results were consistent with mahboob (19) who made the observation tubular hemorrhage, necrosis of renal tubular cells, weakened glomerulus, collecting duct injury, and Congestion of the blood. Mirmazloomi et al (20) reported the identified abnormalities in the kidney reflected glomerulus tissue degeneration, necrosis, and tubular lumen occlusion. Paul et al (25) who investigate Assessment for quality of water and risk in a freshwater fish after exposure to $Pb(NO_3)_2$, an important source of water contamination Extreme necrotic and degenerative effects in the kidney tubules, as well as edema between Bowman's capsules and glomeruli atrophy, were observed in the kidneys of treated fish. Lead is consumed and distributed across the body, including the liver, kidneys, gills, and heart (8).

CONCLUSIONS

In light of the results of this research, it is concluded that lead chloride is moderately toxic to mosquitofish *Gambusia affinis*. Its bioaccumulation in the kidney and induced oxidative stress. Histopathological studies revealed changes in the structural integrity of the cells of the kidney. The current study findings indicate that *G. affinis* is a potential biological indicator of environmental pollution and may be appropriate species for assessing water quality.

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