

ROLE OF BEE POLLEN AND SILYMARIN IN AMELIORATION OF PROXIMAL RENAL TUBULAR ACIDOSIS CAUSED BY CISPLATIN

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ABSTRACT

Proximal renal tubular acidosis (RTA), a disorder in acid-base balance in the kidney is characterized by loss of bicarbonate ions in urine. One of its causes is the production of free radicals by cisplatin (CP). Therefore, the protective effects of silymarin and bee pollen as antioxidant natural product treatments were evaluated against proximal RTA induced by CP in male albino rats. Rats were divided into 8 groups (7 rats each); control group, cisplatin group, bee pollen group, silymarin group, cisplatin then bee pollen group, cisplatin then silymarin group, bee pollen then cisplatin group and silymarin then cisplatin group. After 12 days (the experiment period), sera were used to determine kidney function parameters (urea, uric acid, and creatinine), protein parameters (total protein, albumin, and globulin), and blood glucose level. While anticoagulant was added to the blood to determine acid-base balance and hematological parameters. Silymarin and bee pollen improved the kidney dysfunction in the CP rats group through decreasing levels of kidney function parameters and increasing levels of serum proteins. They also returned the blood glucose level and the hematological parameters in the CP rats group to the normal values. While the acid-base balance parameters were ameliorated after using silymarin and bee pollen against CP nephrotoxicity. So, we conclude that silymarin and bee pollen can be used to ameliorate the proximal RTA and anemia induced by CP.

Key words: Silymarin, Bee pollen, kidney function, hematological parameters, Cisplatin.

INTRODUCTION

Renal tubular acidosis (RTA) is a disorder in the acid-base balance in which the kidney loses its ability to excrete enough acid or reabsorb enough bicarbonate (HCO_3^-) resulting in metabolic acidosis (Soleimani and Rastegar, 2016). There are four types of RTA; distal RTA (Type 1), proximal RTA (Type 2), combined proximal and distal RTA (Type 3) and hyperkalemic RTA (Type 4) (Philip and Jacob, 2018). In type 2 RTA, most bicarbonate ions are lost in urine due to the inability of proximal tubule to reabsorb them from the glomerular filtrate (Yaxley and Pirrone, 2016).

One of the causes of proximal RTA is taking drugs that have a toxic effect on the proximal tubules (Hall *et al.*, 2014). Cisplatin (anticancer drug, CP) is famous for its toxic effect on the proximal tubule (Kitterer *et al.*, 2015). It has been suggested that reactive oxygen species (ROS) induced by cisplatin is one of its toxicity ways (Hosseini *et al.*, 2018). Hayati

et al. (2016) confirmed the necessity of natural antioxidant compounds usage in preventing cisplatin nephrotoxicity. Silymarin and bee pollen are natural products rich in antioxidants and used in the treatment of many diseases (Kocot *et al.*, 2018 and Abouzeinab, 2015). Therefore, we wanted to determine if administration of silymarin and bee pollen have effects on improving proximal RTA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cisplatin:

Cisplatin (code number, 171004032) was obtained from Qilu Pharmaceutical Company (Jinan Shandong province, China). It was injected intraperitoneally (single dose, 7 mg/kg b.w) dissolved in 0.5 ml water (Mansour *et al.*, 2006).

Bee Pollen:

Bee Pollen was obtained from the honeybee project, Faculty of Agriculture, Benha University, Egypt. It was administered orally (daily dose, 300 mg/kg b.w) dissolved in 0.5 ml water (Yildiz *et al.*, 2013).

Silymarin:

Silymarin was obtained as a drug (each capsule contain 140 mg of pure silymarin) from Chemical

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Industries Development (CID) Company (Giza, Egypt). It was administered orally (daily dose, 100 mg/kg b.w) dissolved in 0.5 ml water (Mohamed *et al.*, 2015).

Animals:

Fifty-six rats male albino rats (155±20 g) were obtained from the VSVRI (Veterinary Serum and Vaccine Research Institute, Abbasia, Cairo, Egypt). Rats were housed in wired cages and kept under constant environmental conditions (25±2°C and 12hr dark/light cycle), fed on a standard diet and supplied with water *ad libitum* throughout the experimental period.

Animal groups:

Rats were divided into eight groups (7 rats each); control group (normal untreated rats), cisplatin group (rats injected with cisplatin one time), bee pollen group (rats administered bee pollen for 12 days), silymarin group (rats administered silymarin for 12 days), cisplatin then bee pollen group (rats injected with cisplatin then after 5 days treated with a daily oral dose of bee pollen for 7 days), cisplatin then silymarin group (rats injected with cisplatin then after 5 days treated with a daily oral dose of silymarin for 7 days), bee pollen then cisplatin group (rats administered a daily oral dose of bee pollen for 7 days then injected with cisplatin) and silymarin then cisplatin group (rats administered silymarin for 7 days then injected with cisplatin). Experimental period was extended for 12 days.

Blood Samples collection and preparation:

At the end of experiment period, all fasted overnight rats were anesthetized. Blood samples were collected from posterior vena cava in two groups of tubes, the first tubes group were containing EDTA as an anticoagulant for determination of hematological parameters while the blood in the second tubes group allowed to clot without using any anticoagulants 1-2 h at 37°C then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes. Sera were separated and stored at -20 °C for biochemical determinations. Arterial and venous blood samples of each group were collected into 1.0 ml syringes containing heparin (5000 IU/ml) from the dorsal aorta and posterior vena cava for determinations of acid-base balance parameters.

Biochemical, acid-base balance and hematological parameters:

Serum urea, uric acid, and creatinine levels were determined spectrophotometrically by using Diamond, Spinreact and Diamond kits, respectively.

Serum total protein and albumin levels were determined spectrophotometrically by using Diamond kits. While serum globulin level was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Globulin} = \text{Total protein} - \text{Albumin}$$

Glucose was determined spectrophotometrically by using Spinreact kit.

Acid-base balance parameters (potential of hydrogen "pH" value, carbon dioxide partial pressure "PCO₂", bicarbonate "HCO₃⁻", total carbon dioxide "TCO₂" and base excess "BE") were determined in arterial and venous blood samples using MEDICA, REF7001, Analyzer, English.

Hematological parameters (hemoglobin "Hb" content, hematocrit "Hct" value, red blood cells "RBCs" count, mean corpuscular volume "MCV", mean corpuscular hemoglobin "MCH", mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration "MCHC", white blood cells "WBCs" count and blood platelets count) were determined by automated hematology cell counter (MS4e Automatic Hematology Analyzer).

Statistical Analysis: All measured and calculated parameter values were expressed as the mean of seven individual values ± standard error "SE". The computer program Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) (Version 20.00, Chicago, USA) was used for performing one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's multiple range test.

RESULTS

The kidney function parameters (urea, uric acid, and creatinine) levels showed significant increases (P<0.05) in the CP group compared to control, bee pollen and silymarin groups. All treated CP groups (cisplatin then bee pollen, cisplatin then silymarin, bee pollen then cisplatin and silymarin then cisplatin) have low levels of kidney function parameters in comparison with CP group (Table 1).

The protein parameters (total protein, albumin, and globulin) levels in the CP group showed significant decreases (P<0.05) compared to control, bee pollen and silymarin groups. while protein parameters levels in all treated CP groups increased significantly (Table 2).

Blood glucose in the CP group increased significantly (P<0.05) compared to other groups. whereas all treated CP groups showed significant decreases in blood glucose levels (Figure 1).

Both arterial and venous blood acid-base balance parameters (pH, PCO₂, HCO₃⁻, TCO₂ and BE) in the CP group decreased significantly (P<0.05) compared to control, bee pollen and silymarin groups, while in all treated CP groups they increased significantly in arteries and veins except the arterial PCO₂ levels in cisplatin then bee pollen, bee pollen then cisplatin and silymarin then cisplatin groups which showed non-

significant increase. Only the cisplatin then silymarin group showed significant increase in PCO₂ compared to CP group in its arterial blood (Table 3).

Cisplatin lowered the Hb content, Hct value, RBCs count, and platelets count, but it increased the WBCs

count. While the Hb content, Hct value, RBCs count, and platelets count increased significantly and WBCs count decreased significantly in all treated CP groups compared to the CP group (Table 4).

Table 1: Effects of bee pollen and silymarin on kidney function parameters in different experimental groups.

Parameters	Groups							
	Control	Cisplatin	Bee Pollen	Silymarin	Cisplatin then Bee Pollen	Cisplatin then Silymarin	Bee Pollen then Cisplatin	Silymarin then Cisplatin
Urea (mg/dl)	38.60± 1.36 ^d	175.80± 4.08 ^a	34.80± 2.03 ^d	36.00± 0.63 ^d	56.20± 1.16 ^c	62.40± 1.28 ^b	52.80± 0.86 ^c	51.60± 1.03 ^c
Uric acid (mg/dl)	1.22± 0.07 ^d	2.45± 0.06 ^a	1.08± 0.04 ^e	1.22± 0.02 ^d	1.86± 0.02 ^b	1.82± 0.02 ^b	1.68± 0.06 ^c	1.56± 0.09 ^c
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.37± 0.01 ^d	2.82± 0.03 ^a	0.38± 0.02 ^d	0.42± 0.01 ^d	1.35± 0.08 ^b	1.22± 0.11 ^b	0.77± 0.02 ^c	0.78± 0.04 ^c

Values are expressed as means ± standard errors for seven rats.

abcde = values in same raw with different small letters are significantly different at (P<0.05).

Table 2: Effects of bee pollen and silymarin on serum proteins in different experimental groups.

Parameters	Groups							
	Control	Cisplatin	Bee Pollen	Silymarin	Cisplatin then Bee Pollen	Cisplatin then Silymarin	Bee Pollen then Cisplatin	Silymarin then Cisplatin
Total protein (g/dl)	6.72± 0.05 ^a	4.29± 0.06 ^c	6.60± 0.06 ^a	6.68± 0.03 ^a	5.68± 0.04 ^b	5.78± 0.02 ^b	5.72± 0.05 ^b	5.73± 0.03 ^b
Albumin (g/dl)	4.08± 0.17 ^a	2.70± 0.12 ^c	3.86± 0.06 ^a	3.92± 0.04 ^a	3.51± 0.03 ^b	3.60± 0.03 ^b	3.56± 0.04 ^b	3.57± 0.03 ^b
Globulin (g/dl)	2.64± 0.20 ^a	1.59± 0.14 ^c	2.74± 0.02 ^a	2.76± 0.05 ^a	2.17± 0.06 ^b	2.18± 0.03 ^b	2.16± 0.05 ^b	2.15± 0.02 ^b

Values are expressed as means ± standard errors for seven rats.

abc = values in same raw with different small letters are significantly different at (P<0.05).

Table 3: Effects of bee pollen and silymarin on acid-base balance parameters in different experimental groups.

Parameters		Groups							
		Control	Cisplatin	Bee Pollen	Silymarin	Cisplatin then Bee Pollen	Cisplatin then Silymarin	Bee Pollen then Cisplatin	Silymarin then Cisplatin
pH (unit)	A	7.41±0.02 ^a	7.16±0.01 ^d	7.39±0.02 ^a	7.41±0.00 ^a	7.22±0.01 ^c	7.32±0.01 ^b	7.33±0.00 ^b	7.25±0.00 ^c
	V	7.40±0.01 ^a	7.15±0.03 ^c	7.39±0.01 ^a	7.40±0.00 ^a	7.24±0.01 ^b	7.25±0.01 ^b	7.17±0.00 ^c	7.26±0.00 ^b
PCO ₂ (mmHg)	A	48.33±1.66 ^a	32.77±1.67 ^{c,d}	46.56±1.71 ^a	45.90±1.27 ^a	37.90±2.01 ^{b,c}	43.00±2.37 ^{a,b}	31.37±1.94 ^d	35.88±2.82 ^{c,d}
	V	64.93±1.09 ^a	35.13±3.64 ^c	63.33±0.88 ^a	64.00±2.08 ^a	48.18±1.06 ^b	46.60±1.12 ^b	45.36±0.98 ^b	47.36±0.52 ^b
HCO ₃ ⁻ (mmol/L)	A	30.36±1.7 ^a	11.40±0.75 ^d	27.63±0.24 ^a	28.13±1.12 ^a	14.73±0.87 ^c	21.40±1.35 ^b	15.93±0.82 ^c	15.16±0.97 ^c
	V	38.90±1.46 ^a	11.80±0.43 ^d	37.33±0.98 ^a	38.30±1.47 ^a	20.13±0.60 ^b	19.76±0.72 ^b	16.00±0.50 ^c	20.53±0.43 ^b
TCO ₂ (mmol/L)	A	28.13±1.09 ^a	13.80±1.28 ^d	25.05±2.22 ^{a,b}	26.16±2.68 ^{a,b}	21.50±0.86 ^{b,c}	17.16±1.01 ^{c,d}	20.10±0.66 ^c	19.15±0.83 ^c
	V	27.80±1.94 ^{a,b}	17.10±1.06 ^c	31.00±1.00 ^a	29.15±0.89 ^{a,b}	27.10±3.01 ^{a,b}	28.06±0.52 ^{a,b}	25.00±2.30 ^b	24.86±0.69 ^b
BE (mmol/L)	A	5.77±1.73 ^a	-15.33±0.88 ^d	2.93±0.46 ^a	3.60±1.15 ^a	-11.26±0.66 ^c	-3.86±1.36 ^b	-8.83±0.72 ^c	-10.66±0.82 ^c
	V	13.47±1.50 ^a	-15.13±0.50 ^d	11.93±0.99 ^a	12.87±1.43 ^a	-6.16±0.66 ^b	-6.4±0.75 ^b	-11.00±0.50 ^c	-5.53±0.47 ^b

Values are expressed as means ± standard errors for seven rats.

abcd = values in same row with different small letters are significantly different at (P<0.05).

A= artery.

V= vein.

Table 4: Effects of bee pollen and silymarin on hematological parameters in different experimental groups.

Parameters		Groups							
		Control	Cisplatin	Bee Pollen	Silymarin	Cisplatin then Bee Pollen	Cisplatin then Silymarin	Bee Pollen then Cisplatin	Silymarin then Cisplatin
Hb (g/dl)		9.82±0.21 ^b	7.32±0.17 ^c	11.24±0.08 ^a	10.02±0.36 ^b	9.50±0.18 ^b	9.44±0.22 ^b	10.16±0.29 ^b	9.76±0.17 ^b
	Hct (%)	29.82±0.86 ^b	21.58±0.68 ^c	33.40±0.48 ^a	30.96±1.38 ^{a,b}	28.14±0.98 ^b	27.88±1.02 ^b	29.68±1.30 ^b	29.08±0.83 ^b
RBCs (M/mm ³)		5.33±0.10 ^b	3.98±0.15 ^c	6.30±0.10 ^a	5.59±0.09 ^b	5.21±0.12 ^b	5.26±0.07 ^b	5.59±0.18 ^b	5.29±0.09 ^b
	MCV (fl)	55.84±1.04 ^a	54.16±0.34 ^a	53.00±0.86 ^a	55.30±1.62 ^a	53.98±1.15 ^a	52.94±1.18 ^a	53.06±1.33 ^a	54.90±1.03 ^a
MCH (pg)		18.40±0.34 ^a	18.44±0.26 ^a	17.84±0.24 ^a	17.92±0.36 ^a	18.24±0.30 ^a	17.92±0.23 ^a	18.16±0.08 ^a	18.42±0.15 ^a
	MCHC (g/dl)	32.96±0.38 ^{a,b}	33.98±0.29 ^{a,b}	33.67±0.49 ^{a,b}	32.44±0.26 ^b	33.84±0.59 ^{a,b}	33.92±0.65 ^{a,b}	34.32±0.80 ^a	33.60±0.58 ^{a,b}
WBCs (th/mm ³)		7.14±0.02 ^d	8.32±0.22 ^b	8.68±0.05 ^a	7.44±0.11 ^c	7.50±0.03 ^c	7.48±0.02 ^c	7.44±0.06 ^c	7.43±0.04 ^c
	Platelets (th/mm ³)	422.60±6.04 ^{a,b,c}	279.40±5.09 ^d	435.80±7.08 ^a	416.40±4.67 ^{b,c}	412.40±3.74 ^c	415.20±4.87 ^{b,c}	416.60±5.24 ^{b,c}	431.00±1.70 ^{a,b}

Values are expressed as means ± standard errors for seven rats.

abcd = values in same row with different small letters are significantly different at (P<0.05).

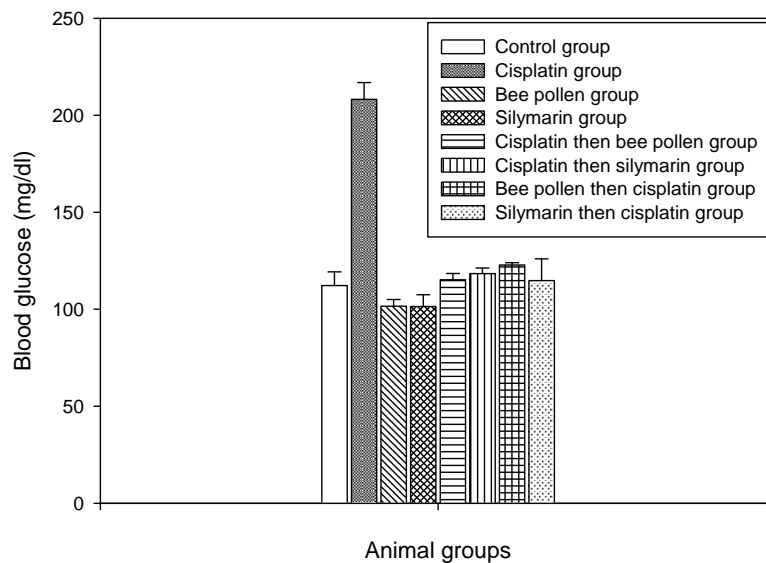


Figure (1): Effects of bee pollen and silymarin on blood glucose in different experimental groups.

DISCUSSION

Many studies have been shown that CP cause nephrotoxicity (Pazhayattil and Shirali, 2014) that is associated with severe renal dysfunction (Lin *et al.*, 2018). Our results are consistent with studies where the kidney function parameters (urea, uric acid, and creatinine) in the CP group were significantly high which confirmed the occurrence of renal dysfunction. These increases in the kidney function parameters might be due to the decrease in the glomerular filtration rate or due to the oxidative stress induced by CP (Sen *et al.*, 2018).

It was noted that bee pollen and silymarin were the causes in the marked reductions in levels of kidney function parameters in the CP group. The protective effect of bee pollen against CP toxicity was reported by Kocot *et al.* (2018). The antioxidant and detoxification effects of bee pollen were related to its content of phenolic compounds and amino acid (Nascimento and Luz Jr, 2018). Ghaznavi *et al.* (2016) were returned the renoprotective effect of silymarin to its ability to increase antioxidant enzymes and reducing free radical damage effects. Not only that but it also contains flavonoid complex that enables it to react as a powerful antioxidant against nephrotoxicity drugs (Sedighifard *et al.*, 2016).

The significant decrease in serum proteins (total protein, albumin, and globulin) confirmed the renal dysfunction state in the CP group. Miyoshi *et al.* (2016) explained that hypoalbuminemia which is correlated with cisplatin-nephrotoxicity might be due to the binding of CP to plasma proteins, especially albumin. Moreover, low total proteins and albumin

levels in the CP group could be due also to hepatotoxicity induced by CP (Nasr, 2014).

Bee pollen and silymarin were the causes in improving the protein levels in CP group. Salem *et al.* (2017) attributed this improvement to the ability of silymarin to regenerates hepatocytes destroyed by CP. Huang *et al.* (2017) showed that bee pollen has a hepatoprotective effect on liver injury induced by CP.

The CP group showed a high level of blood glucose. This result was confirmed by Jacob and Chowdhury (2015) who reported that CP causes hyperglycemia. This hyperglycemia might be related to reducing glucose transport activity and decreasing expression of the glucose transporter (GLUT4) that induced by CP (Aldalou, 2016). Meng *et al.* (2016) reported that silymarin decreased hyperglycemia in type 2 diabetes patient by improving β -cell function.

In the normal condition, the proximal tubule reabsorbs the most amount of filtered HCO_3^- (Skelton *et al.*, 2010). But some drugs such as CP caused proximal RTA (Kitterer *et al.*, 2015), which characterized by the decreasing of HCO_3^- reabsorption rate in the proximal tubule (Soleimani and Rastegar, 2016). This may confirm our finding that the decline in the levels of arterial and venous pH, HCO_3^- , TCO_2 , and BE in the CP group indicated the occurrence of proximal RTA. While the decline in PCO_2 might be due to the hyperventilation which followed the acidosis state as a respiratory compensation. It was noted that hyperventilation increases pH in patients with metabolic acidosis (Seifter and Chang, 2016). Bee pollen and silymarin improve the proximal RTA and that appeared through increasing pH values.

The reduction in Hb content, Hct value, RBCs count in CP group is a marker for anemia which can be explained through different mechanisms. one of these mechanisms is the reduction of erythropoietin (stimulates the production of red blood cells by the bone marrow) production due to the kidney damage caused by CP (Rajasekar and Jeyaprakash, 2016). The link of RBC membrane by the free radical produced by CP which resulting in lowering of the Hb level might be another mechanism for anemia induced by CP (Janakiraman and Jeyaprakash, 2015). While Aldalou (2016) reported that the destruction of bone marrow cells, suppression of the activity of hematopoietic tissues, impaired erythropoiesis, and accelerated RBCs destruction by CP might be reasons for anemia induced by CP.

It turned out that bee pollen reduced anemia caused by CP. The anti-anemia effect of bee pollen might be returned to improving the absorption and utilization of nutritional iron (Rzepecka-Stojko *et al.*, 2015). A higher content of vitamin C in bee pollen also increases Hb content and RBCs count (Komosinska-Vassev *et al.*, 2015). While silymarin prevents hemolysis by reducing the rate and the total content of glutathione loss in erythrocytes (Karimi *et al.*, 2011).

CONCLUSION

Results concluded that the bee pollen and silymarin are able to ameliorate the acid-base balance in the kidney which was disturbed by nephrotoxicity induced by CP. Not only that but they also have powerful effects against anemia that caused by CP.

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دور حبوب اللقاح والسيليمارين في تحسين الحمض الأنبوبي الكلوي الداني الناجم عن السيسبلاتين

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الحمض الأنبوبي الكلوي الداني (RTA) هو خلل في توازن الحمض القاعدي في الكلى يفقد أيونات البيكربونات في البول. وأحد أسبابه هو إنتاج الجذور الحرة بواسطة السيسبلاتين (CP). لذلك ، تم تقييم الآثار الوقائية للسيليمارين وحبوب اللقاح كمعالجات طبيعية مضادة للأكسدة على الحمض الأنبوبي الكلوي الداني الذي يسببه السيسبلاتين في ذكور الجرذان البيضاء. تم تقسيم الجرذان إلى ٨ مجموعات (٧ جرذان لكل منها) ؛ المجموعة الضابطة ، مجموعة السيسبلاتين ، مجموعة حبوب اللقاح ، مجموعة السيليمارين ، مجموعة السيسبلاتين ثم حبوب اللقاح ، مجموعة السيسبلاتين ثم السيليمارين ، مجموعة حبوب اللقاح ثم السيسبلاتين ، ومجموعة السيليمارين ثم السيسبلاتين. بعد ١٢ يوماً (فترة التجربة) ، تم استخدام الأمصال لتحديد معاملات وظائف الكلى (اليوريا ، حمض اليوريك ، والكرياتينين) ، ومعاملات البروتين (البروتين الكلي ، الألبومين ، والغلوبولين) ، ومستوى جلوكوز الدم. في حين تمت إضافة مضاد التآثر إلى الدم لتحديد معايير توازن الحمض القاعدي ومعاملات الدم. حسن السيليمارين وحبوب اللقاح الفشل الكلوي في مجموعة جرذان السيسبلاتين من خلال خفض مستويات معاملات وظائف الكلى وزيادة مستويات البروتينات في الدم. كما أعادوا مستوى جلوكوز الدم ومعاملات الدم في مجموعة جرذان السيسبلاتين إلى القيم الطبيعية. في حين تم تحسين معايير توازن الحمض القاعدي بعد استخدام السيليمارين وحبوب اللقاح ضد السمية الكلوية الناجمة عن السيسبلاتين. لذلك ، نستنتج أن السيليمارين وحبوب اللقاح يمكن أن يستخدمان لتحسين الحمض الأنبوبي الكلوي الداني وفقر الدم الناجم عن السيسبلاتين.