A-08 : URINARY N-ACETYL-ß-D GLUCOSAMINIDASE LEVELS FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATION OF *Momordica charantia*

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In view of the reported oral hypoglyceamic activity of both fruit juice and seed extract of *Momoridica charantia*, the present study was undertaken to evaluate possible renal toxicity of *Momordica charantia* using male Sprague-Dawley rats as the

animal model and the urinary levels of N-acetyl-ß-D-glucosaminidase (NAG) as the index of renal toxicity.

Fruit juice and seed extract of *M.charantia* to the experimental groups and distilled water to the control group (n = 10 in each group) were administered orally (lml/100g body wt.) for 30 days. At the end of this period the urine was collected for the estimation of NAG concentrations. Animals were then sacrificed and kidneys were subjected to histopathological examination. Urinary NAG was also estimated in 10 normal healthy male rats.

There was no significant difference in NAG concentrations between the control and the normal group or the control and the treatment groups. Significant renal lesions were not apparent in any of the groups studied. The absence of significant changes in renal histology and urinary NAG concentrations between the control and the treatment groups are suggestive that long term administration on *M.charantia* fruit juice and the seed extract does not cause any renal damage.

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