



# Evaluation of Oxidative Stress Parameters in Liver in Pentylenetetrazole - Induced Acute and Chronic Epilepsy Model in Rats

Aktas Ahmet\*<sup>1</sup> and Sahin Bilal<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Turkey

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Turkey

\*Corresponding author: Aktas Ahmet, Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Cumhuriyet University, Sivas, Turkey.

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## Abstract

Epilepsy occurs due to periodic and spontaneous excessive electrical discharges of cerebral, cortical and subcortical neurons. Epilepsy affects about 1% of the global world population. In epilepsy, the formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the brain usually increases with recurrent seizures. The aim of this study was to evaluate the levels of oxidative damage in the chronic and acute epilepsy model by measuring AST and ALT enzyme levels from serum samples and CAT, SOD and TBARS levels in liver tissues. In our study we found that, serum AST levels of acute epileptic model group were found to be significantly higher than control and chronic epileptic model group ( $p < 0.05$ ). SOD levels of chronic epileptic model group were found to be significantly higher than acute epileptic model group and control groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). CAT levels of chronic epileptic model group were found to be significantly lower than control group ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Keywords:** Epilepsy; Oxidative stress; Liver enzymes

## Introduction

Epilepsy occurs due to periodic and spontaneous excessive electrical discharges of cerebral, cortical and subcortical neurons. Epilepsy affects about 1% of the global world population [1, 2]. Pentylenetetrazole (PTZ) is a GABA receptor blocker from chemical tetrazole. It is often used to model the occurrence of animal epilepsy and evaluate the efficacy of antiepileptic agents. It is one of the drugs commonly used in the formation of generalized tonic-clonic epileptic seizures [3]. In generalized epilepsy, the formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the brain increases with recurrent seizures [4]. Increased oxidative stress due to increased free radical release has been associated with underlying pathogenesis in the onset and development of epileptic seizures. Therefore, it has been concluded that antioxidant treatment may provide neuroprotective effect by reducing oxidative stress in epilepsy treatment [5]. Increased oxidative stress in the central nervous system has been shown to increase in various experimental epilepsy models and electroshock models [6] such as the amygdala burning model [7], kainic acid model [8], PTZ model [9], sound stimulation (switching) model [10]. The liver is an organ that regulates different functions

such as secretion, metabolism, detoxification and storage in the body and is sensitive to oxidative damage [11, 12]. The aim of this study was to evaluate the levels of oxidative injury in chronic and acute epilepsy model by measuring AST and ALT enzyme levels from serum samples and CAD, TBARS and SOD levels in liver tissues.

## Materials and Methods

### Subjects

Male, adult 200-250 g Wistar rats ( $n = 18$ ) were used in the experiment. Ethics approval was obtained from Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Medicine Ethics Committee. Animals were divided into six groups:

- Control Group (Control;  $n = 6$ ); rats, single dose i.p. saline,
- Acute Epileptic Model Group ( $n = 6$ ); rats, single dose i.p. PTZ (45 mg / kg),
- Chronic Epileptic Model Group ( $n = 6$ ); rats, repeated i.p. doses PTZ (35 mg / kg) every other day for 15(fifteen) times.

## Seizure Model

The chronic epilepsy model is induced by 15 injections of 35 mg / kg PTZ and the acute epilepsy model is induced by single dose PTZ (45 mg / kg). Rats were observed for epileptic seizures for 30 minutes after PTZ injection. The activity was performed as general epileptic seizures beginning with clonus of the forefoot and facial muscles and continuing with tail and neck extensions, tonic flexion-extension and loss of straightening reflex and generally extended clonic activity. Transport times and behavioral characteristics of epileptic activities were recorded. Animals were killed by guillotine 24 hours after saline administration or PTZ-induced seizures (single or final seizure).

## Tissue Assessment and Methods

Blood was collected before sacrifice from the animals and centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 20 minutes. Serum samples were taken. AST and ALT levels were measured from serum samples using automatic analyzer in Sivas Cumhuriyet University Hospital. After the blood collection, the animals were sacrificed, and the liver tissues of the animals were removed for sampling. It was placed in PBS, which was five times higher than the extracted liver tissue. A manual homogenizer was used to prevent tissue degeneration and all extracted tissues were homogenized on ice in this PBS. Samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 20 minutes and the supernatants were separated. SOD, CAT and TBARS levels in liver supernatants

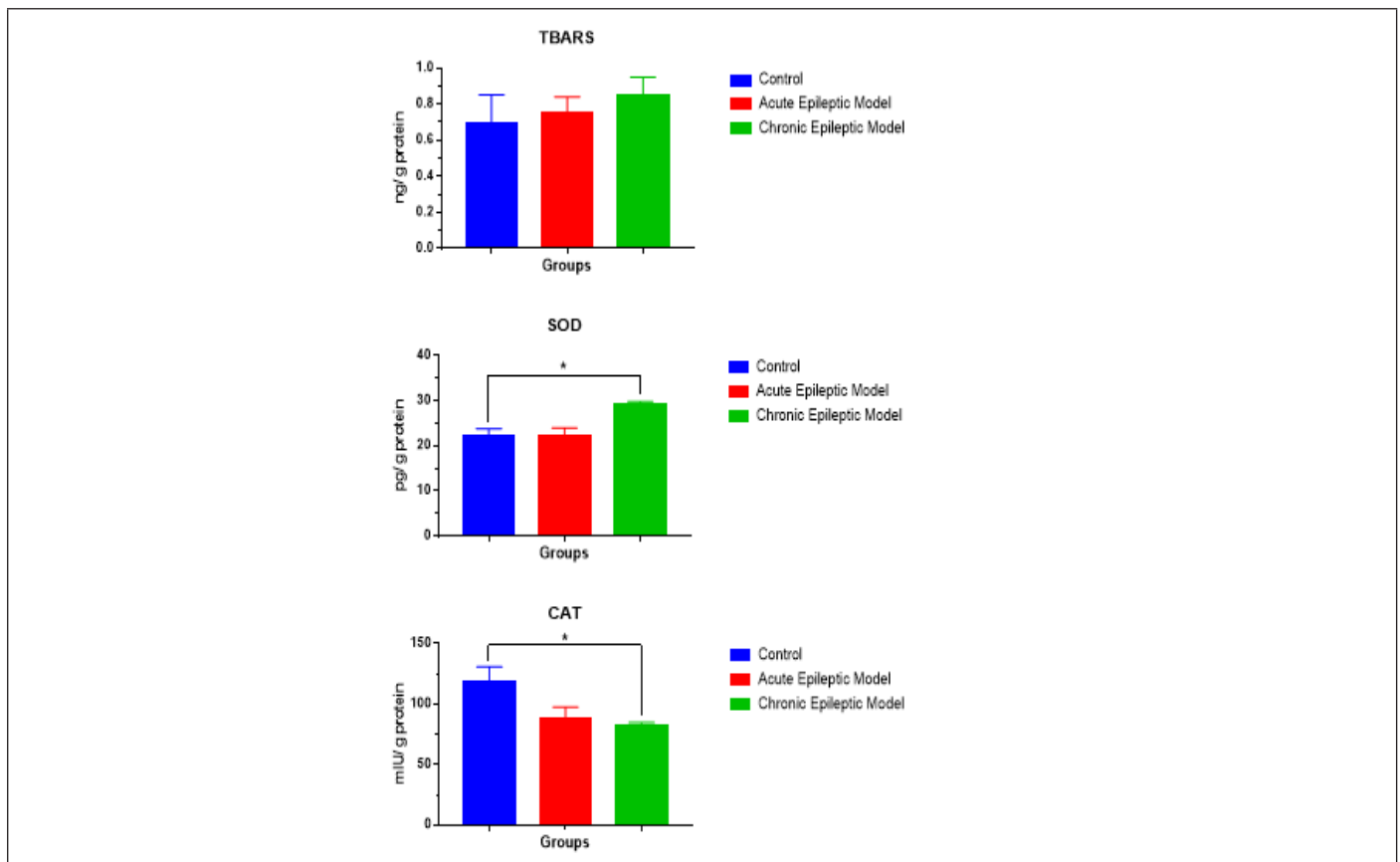
were measured using sandwich-ELISA method according to the manufacturer's protocol and protein concentration was determined by Bradford protein assay kit.

## Statistics

The mean  $\pm$  SD was used for all data. The SPSS statistical package (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL) was used to perform statistical analyzes in our study. Statistical analysis was performed to compare changes between individual groups using variance analysis (ANOVA) followed by post ANOVA (Tukey's HSD) test. The p value was accepted as  $<0.05$  to accept statistically significant difference between the groups.

## Results

Table 1 includes serum AST and ALT levels and Chart 1 includes SOD, TBARS and CAT levels in liver tissue in all (3) groups. There was no significant difference between the groups in terms of serum ALT and liver TBARS parameters ( $p > 0.05$ ). There was no significant difference between chronic epileptic model group and control group ( $p > 0.05$ ). Serum AST levels of the chronic epileptic model and control group were significantly lower than the acute epileptic model group ( $p < 0.05$ ). SOD levels of the chronic epileptic model group were significantly higher than the acute epileptic model group and the control group ( $p < 0.05$ ). CAT levels of the control group were significantly lower than those of the chronic epileptic model group ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 1) (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Liver TBARS, SOD and CAT levels in control, acute epileptic model and chronic epileptic model groups. \* significantly different from control group  $p < 0.05$ .

**Table 1:** Serum AST and ALT levels in control, acute epileptic model and chronic epileptic model groups.

Groups	AST (U/L)	ALT (U/L)
Control (n=6)	114,70 ± 8,48	46,13 ± 2,88
Acute epileptic model (n=6)	197,11 ± 14,08*	45,01 ± 3,68
Chronic epileptic model (n=6)	112,07 ± 3,00	42,30 ± 2,58

\*Significantly different from control group, p<0.05

## Discussion

Lipid peroxidation (MDA) is caused by free radicals such as NO. Furthermore, glutamine synthase can be directly inactivated for epileptic seizure activation, thereby causing abnormal accumulation of glutamate, the main stimulatory neurotransmitter [13, 3]. In previous studies, it is thought that oxidative stress is an important cause of excitotoxicity and glutamate receptor activation [14]. SOD is one of the important antioxidants against free radicals. In addition, SOD is thought to prevent lipid peroxidation. Normally, lipid peroxidation occurs at low levels in each person and is the result of increased oxidative stress. MDA, the product of lipid peroxidation, has toxic effects on cell membranes and cells [11]. PTZ-induced epileptic seizures are associated with oxidative stress. Because it is a clinical epilepsy model that simulates actual epileptic seizures, it is widely used to create experimental epileptic models [15]. Akbas et al. [16] reported that increased oxidative stress caused by lipid peroxidation in hepatocytes during long-term epileptic seizures may lead to hepatocyte damage [16]. They used an epileptic model PTZ dose. They found that SOD and GSH in the liver and blood were significantly increased in the epileptic model group compared to the control group. We found that SOD levels were significantly lower in the acute epileptic model group and in the control, group compared to the chronic epileptic group (p <0.05). Activation of the nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor (Nrf2) [17, 18] increases antioxidant defenses in brain cells, and there are mechanisms to prevent the occurrence of nitrogen species and reactive oxygen species. Nrf2 enhances the expression of various endogenous antioxidant enzymes and thus plays a key role in intracellular signaling and redox balance. The regulated ARE genes are activated in astrocytes. As a result, neurons have antioxidant defenses and detoxification. Thus, they protect the cells against oxidative stress [19]. In PTZ-induced animals, an increase in the expression of Nrf2 was observed (data in print), and a marked increase in immunoactivity against enzymes regulated by this factor suggests activation in epileptic seizure models [20]. SOD (CuZnSOD and MnSOD) found in cytosol and mitochondria are found in the antioxidant enzyme systems regulated by Nrf2. H2O can be eliminated by CAT in mitochondria and peroxisomes or neutralized in H2O with GPx in the cytosol [21]; in this paper CAT levels of the control group were significantly lower than those of the chronic epileptic model group (p <0.05).

In previous studies, TBARS, the product of lipid oxidation, was used as an indicator of oxidative stress [22]. In our study there was no significant difference between the groups in terms of serum ALT and liver TBARS parameters (p > 0.05). There was no significant difference between chronic epileptic model group and control group (p > 0.05).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, it causes increased oxidative damage and lipid peroxidation in PTZ-induced recurrent and single epileptic seizure models. In addition, antioxidant defense mechanisms have been decreased in these models. Increased oxidative stress, either recurrent or in a single epileptic seizure, causes damage to hepatocytes.

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