

**STATUS OF URINARY 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-ISOPROSTANE LEVELS IN GENERALIZED TONIC-CLONIC SEIZURE PATIENTS WITH LEVETIRACETAM IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL**BHUVANESHWARI S<sup>1\*</sup>, VIJAYA D<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Pharmacology, KMCH Institute of Health Sciences and Research, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. <sup>2</sup>Department of Biochemistry, PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. Email: bhuvana1421@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** The objective of the study was to analyze urinary 15-2t-isoprostane levels in epileptic patients with levetiracetam (LEV) and to compare the urinary 15-2t-isoprostane levels between the different age groups, smokers, and alcoholics.

**Method:** The study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital. Urinary 15-2t-isoprostane levels were assayed in epileptic patients taking LEV. Twenty patients were recruited. Urinary levels of 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane determined by ELISA. The patient's age, gender, height, weight, smoking, and alcoholic history were collected using pro forma. Statistical analysis of data was performed using SPSS version 23.0.

**Results:** A total of 20 participants recruited for the study. Among these, 70% were male and 30% were female. The mean weight and height were more in males compared to females. The mean 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane level was significantly higher in males compared to females. More than 40% of the participants were in the age group of >40 years. However, the mean urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane level is higher in the age group of 19-30 years. Only 20% of the participants were smokers and alcoholics. Non-smokers and non-alcoholics had higher urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane levels compared to smokers and alcoholics.

**Conclusion:** The urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane levels were more in males, the age group of 19-30 years, non-smokers and non-alcoholics. However, the levels are lesser when compared to earlier meta-analysis study. This concludes that LEV may have antioxidant effect. There is a need for further studies with more sample size and correlation of LEV and urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane levels.

**Keywords:** Levetiracetam, Urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane levels, Generalized tonic-clonic seizure, Epilepsy.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Epilepsy is a severe neurologic disorder associated with stigma, psychiatric comorbidity, and high economic costs. The WHO's 2010 Global Burden of Disease study ranks epilepsy as the second most troublesome neurologic disease worldwide in terms of disability-adjusted life years [1]. The incidence of epilepsy is predominantly high in children under 5 years of age and in individuals older than 65 years [2,3]. About one-fourth of all cases develop before the age of five [4]. Nowadays, a growing consideration is paid to the probable interrelationship between oxidative stress resultant in disorder of physiological signaling roles of calcium and free radicals in neuronal cells and mitochondrial dysfunction, cell damage, and epilepsy. The positive stimulation of mitochondrial calcium signals by reactive oxygen species and increased reactive oxygen species generation subsequent from augmented mitochondrial calcium can clue to a positive feedback loop. We suggest that calcium can produce both physiological and pathological effects of mitochondrial function, which can lead to neuronal cell death and subsequent epileptic seizures. Various antiepileptic drugs may retard the endogenous antioxidative capacity to avoid oxidative stress. The pro-oxidative properties of these antiepileptic drugs might lead to augmentation of seizure activity, leading to loss of their efficacy [5]. There was an increase in urinary 15F-2t-isoprostane levels in epileptic patients who were treated with levetiracetam (LEV) which may indicate that LEV induces the oxidative stress in epileptic patients [6]. In the past 25 years, 14 new antiepileptic medications (AEMs) have entered the market [7]. LEV is a novel anticonvulsant structurally unrelated to other AEMs [8]. Therefore, this study is needed to determine the effects of LEV, an anticonvulsant, on the antioxidant enzyme activities (See comment in PubMed Commons below).

**Aims and Objectives**

The objective of the study was to analyze urinary 15-2t-isoprostane levels in epileptic patients with LEV and to compare the urinary 15-2t-isoprostane levels between the different age groups, smokers, and alcoholics.

**METHODOLOGY**

A cross-sectional study was conducted on the patients visited the tertiary care hospital at Tamil Nadu, India, from August 2017 to July 2018 after approval from the Institutional Human Ethics Committee. Patient's above 18 years, both gender, having LEV 500 mg twice daily for more than 1 month, diagnosed as idiopathic generalized tonic-clonic seizure was included in the study. Patients with a history of seizure within 1 month, abnormal neurological examination, known abnormal cerebral MRI scan, endocrinopathies, liver, heart, kidney diseases, cancer, and any disease likely to affect lipid metabolism, any inflammatory disease, and renal and hepatic failure were excluded from the study. Written informed consent was obtained from eligible patients based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Five milliliters of urine samples were collected from the participants. The urine samples were stored at -80°C until analyzed. Urinary levels of 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane determined by ELISA. Each sample was analyzed twice for urinary levels of 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane. The patient's age, gender, height, weight, smoking, and alcoholic history were collected using pro forma.

**Urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane immunoassay**

Urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane levels were analyzed using immunoassay kits from Neogen Corporation (Product number #430110). The procedure of assay was done in ELISA according to product leaflet. Urinary 15-F<sub>2t</sub>-isoprostane level was expressed as ng/mg Cr.

Table 1: Gender and age distribution of participants

Gender and age group	Total participants n (%)	Mean weight (kg)	Mean height (cm)	Urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane level	
				Mean (ng/mg Cr)	p-value
Total	20 (100)	61.8	157.5	0.27	
Male	14 (70)	64.7	159.4	0.32	0.006*
Female	6 (30)	55.1	153	0.15	
19–30 years	6 (30)	56.6	158	1.11	0.400
31–40 years	6 (30)	63.6	159.7	0.33	
>40 years	8 (40)	64.4	155.5	0.27	

\*p<0.05 is statistically significant

Table 2: Smoking and alcoholic status of participants

Status of participants	Total participants n (%)	Urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane level	
		Mean (ng/mg Cr)	p-value
Smoker	4 (20)	0.39	0.299
Non-smoker	16 (80)	0.58	
Alcoholic	4 (20)	0.27	0.170
Non-alcoholic	16 (20)	0.61	

### Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis of data was performed using SPSS version 23.0. Mean urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane levels were compared by unpaired Student's t-test between males and females, smokers and non-smokers, and alcoholics and non-alcoholics. Single factor ANOVA was used to compare between three different age groups. p<0.5 was considered as statistically significant.

### RESULTS

A total of 20 participants recruited for the study. Among these, 70% were male and 30% were female. The mean weight and height were more in males compared to females. The mean 15-F2t-isoprostane level was significantly higher in males compared to females (Table 1). More than 40% of the participants were in the age group of >40 years. The age group >40 showed higher mean body weight than other age groups. However, the mean urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane level is higher in the age group of 19–30 years. However, it was not statistically significant (Table 1).

Only 20% of the participants were smokers and alcoholics. Non-smokers and non-alcoholics had higher urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane levels compared to smokers and alcoholics. However, it was not statistically significant (Table 2).

### DISCUSSION

A previous study on LEV had reported increased 15F-2t-isoprostane levels in the 21 patients (11 were female and 10 males) [9]. The present study was done in 70% of males and 30% of females. In the meta-analysis study, mean urinary 15F-2t-isoprostane levels in normal patients were 1.5 ng/mg Cr [10]. In the current study, mean urinary 15F-2t-isoprostane levels were significantly higher in males compared to females. However, in both males and females, the level was <1.5 ng/mg Cr. Hence, this study shows that LEV may have antioxidant effect both in males and females (Table 1).

The mean urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane level is higher in the age group of 19–30 years. However, it was not statistically significant (Table 1). However, it was lesser than normal mean urinary 15F-2t-isoprostane levels in the earlier meta-analysis study [10]. Hence, this study shows that LEV may have antioxidant effect at all age groups.

In the current study, non-smokers and non-alcoholics showed higher urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane levels compared to smokers and alcoholics. However, it was not statistically significant (Table 2).

However, it was lesser than the mean urinary 15F-2t-isoprostane levels in the earlier meta-analysis study on smokers [10]. Hence, this study shows that there was no significant difference in the antioxidant status in smokers and alcoholics compared to non-smokers and non-alcoholics.

### CONCLUSION

The urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane levels were more in males, the age group of 19–30 years, non-smokers and non-alcoholics. However, the levels are lesser when compared to earlier meta-analysis study [10]. This concludes that LEV may have antioxidant effect. There is a need for further studies with more sample size and correlation of LEV and urinary 15-F2t-isoprostane levels.

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### AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Both the authors contributed for concept, design, screening of patients, selection, and recruitment of patients, informed consent, laboratory investigations, laboratory report interpretation, data collection and monitoring of data, interpretation of data, statistical analysis, and interpretation, maintaining master file of project, drafting final report, submission of final report to funding agency and IHEC, Publication.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declared no conflicts of interest regarding the research, authorship, and publication of this article.

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