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Edaravone and obeticholic acid protect against cisplatin-induced heart toxicity by suppressing oxidative stress and inflammation and modulating Nrf2, TLR4/p38MAPK, and JAK1/STAT3/NF-kB signals

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Abstract

Cardiotoxicity is a significant adverse effect of cisplatin (CIS) that necessitates extensive medical care. The current study examines the cardioprotective effects of edaravone (EDV), obeticholic acid (OCA), and their combinations on CIS-induced cardiac damage. Rats were allocated into five groups: the normal control group, the remaining four groups received CIS (7.5 mg/kg, i.p.) as a single dose on the fifth day and were assigned to CIS, OCA (10 mg/kg/day)+CIS, EDV (20 mg/kg/day)+CIS, and the (EDV+OCA)+CIS group. Compared to the CIS-treated group, co-treating rats with EDV, OCA, or their combinations significantly decreased ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I serum levels and alleviated histopathological heart abnormalities. Biochemically, EDV, OCA, and EDV plus OCA administration mitigated cardiac oxidative stress as indicated by a marked decrease in heart MDA content with a rise in cardiac antioxidants SOD and GSH associated with upregulating Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 expression. Besides, it dampened inflammation by decreasing cardiac levels of TNF- α , IL-1 β , and IL-6, mediated by suppressing NF- κ B, JAK1/STAT3, and TLR4/p38MAPK signal activation. Notably, rats co-administered with EDV plus OCA showed noticeable protection that exceeded that of EDV and OCA alone. In conclusion, our study provided that EDV, OCA, and their combinations effectively attenuated CIS-induced cardiac intoxication by activating Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 signals and downregulating NF- κ B, JAK1/STAT3, and TLR4/p38MAPK signals.

Keywords Edaravone · Obeticholic acid · Cisplatin · Cardiotoxicity · Nrf2, JAK1/STAT3/NF-кB

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Introduction

Cisplatin (CIS) is a well-known chemotherapy drug used to remedy various cancers, such as breast, testicular, ovarian, and others (Ghosh 2019; Dasari and Tchounwou 2014). Nevertheless, the therapeutic use of CIS is restricted by multiple organ toxicities, including renal toxicity, cardiotoxicity, bone marrow suppression, and others (Qi et al. 2019). Notably, free radicals have been involved in CIS-induced multiple organ injury, as reactive oxygen species (ROS) can activate enormous output of proinflammatory cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α) and interleukin (IL)-1 β and IL-6 (Miller et al. 2010; Barabas et al. 2008; El-Awady el et al. 2011). These proinflammatory cytokines and free radicals significantly harm the heart (El-Awady el et al. 2011). However, the exact mechanism of toxicity is still obscure.

Oxidative stress induces the alteration of different signaling pathways. The antioxidant response element (ARE) mediated by the activation of transcription factor nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) protects the cells from the harmful effect of oxidative stress and potently mitigates the cytotoxic effect caused by diverse free radicals and inflammatory signals (Hassanein et al. 2020b; Loboda et al. 2016). In addition, a protein named silent information regulator T1 (SIRT1), an NAD+-dependent histone deacetylase, plays diverse roles in oxidative stress, apoptosis, inflammation, and aging (Singh and Ubaid 2020). Many investigations documented that the SIRT1 signal possesses a valuable function against cardiac damage and can represent a therapeutic target for inflammation-related problems (Packer 2020). Moreover, a nuclear receptor called peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor gamma (PPARy) controls the transcription of several genes primarily involved in fatty acid and energy metabolism. The activation of PPAR γ influences a wide range of biological processes, including the regulation of metabolism, the suppression of inflammation, the control of immune cell balance, the inhibition of apoptosis and oxidative stress, and the enhancement of endothelial function (Ivanova et al. 2015).

Studies indicate that most mechanisms behind the progression of structural heart disease include inflammation, and antiinflammatory medications can decrease cardiovascular events because inflammation is a major contributing factor to cardiovascular disorders (Kalogeropoulos et al. 2012). Additionally, free radicals activate inflammatory signals such as stimulation of mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) and nuclear factor-*kappa* B (NF-kB) (Al-Kahtani et al. 2014). Besides, the Janus kinase/signal transducers and activators of transcription (JAK/STAT) signal are an intracellular signal transduction pathway ubiquitously expressed and involved in numerous biological functions. It offers a direct mechanism for regulating gene expression by external stimuli. Strong evidence suggests several inflammatory and immunological disorders are intimately linked to the prolonged and excess activation of the JAK/STAT signaling pathway (Xin et al. 2020). Side by side, the innate inflammatory process is significantly influenced by toll-like receptors (TLR). TLR4 is emerging as the most well-known of TLR members (Moresco et al. 2011). TLR4 stimulation triggered the inflammatory cascade and mediated inflammatory responses through the crucial downstream effector NF-κB (Dou et al. 2013).

Obeticholic acid (OCA), a semisynthetic derivative of chenodeoxycholic acid, is selective and potent farnesoid X receptor (FXR) agonist (Abenavoli et al. 2020). Many investigations reported that FXR receptors are important in regulating cardiovascular biology (Li et al. 2020). OCA possesses antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects in different models (Guo et al. 2021; Pellicciari et al. 2002). Edaravone (EDV) is a potent free radical scavenger used for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Watanabe et al. 2008; Rothstein 2017). Previous studies reported that EDV has promising protective effects in different animal models, such as myocardial injury (Iguchi et al. 2004), CIS-activated acute renal toxicity (Zhang et al.

2003), and others. As mentioned before, the scope of this work was to inspect the potential protective effect of EDV and OCA against CIS-induced cardiac injury in rats, pointing out the role of Nrf2, PPAR γ , SIRT1, NF- κ B, JAK/STAT, and TLR4/p38MAPK signals.

Materials and methods

Reagents and chemicals

Cisplatin MYLAN® (50 mg/50 ml) vial was used in the present study: EDV and OCA (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA). All the remaining chemicals and reagents were of analytical category and obtained from standard mercantile provisions.

Animals

The ethical use of laboratory animals was carried out according to the National Institute of Health (NIH) Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and approved from the Faculty of Pharmacy Ethical Committee et al.-Azhar University (approval number: ZA-AS/PH/5/C/2022). Forty male Wistar rats (180–200 g) were used in this work. Rats were acclimatized for 1 week before the experiments, under standard laboratory conditions, free water, and diet under a temperature of 25 ± 2 °C and humidity of $60\pm10\%$ and 12-h light and dark cycles.

Experimental groups and treatment protocol

After determining the effective dose of CIS, EDV, and OCA, the experimental design of the study has been summarized as follows (Fig. 1):

In brief, the animals were assigned into five groups (n=8/group):

Group 1: Normal control received saline daily for 10 days. Group 2: Received CIS (7.5 mg/kg, i.p.) single dose (Sherif 2021) on the 5th day of the study.

Group 3: Received OCA (10 mg/kg, orally) (Ferrigno et al. 2020) for 10 successive days plus CIS (7.5 mg/kg, i.p.) on the 5th day of this study.

Group 4: Received EDV (20 mg/kg, orally) (Hassanein et al. 2020a) for 10 successive days plus CIS (7.5 mg/kg, i.p.) (Emekli-Alturfan et al. 2015) on the 5th day of this study.

Group 5: Received OCA+EDV for 10 successive days at doses mentioned before and CIS on the 5th day of this study.

Sample collection and tissue processing

After 10 days of the treatment protocol, blood was obtained from the retroorbital plexus and under ketamine (100 mg/kg, i.p.)



Fig. 1 Illustrated diagram explored the study experimental design

anesthesia and allowed to clot for serum preparations obtained by centrifugation at 1200 g for 15 min for the biochemical markers. Then, rats were sacrificed, and hearts were dissected and washed with ice-cold saline. A small piece of cardiac tissue from each group was preserved in 10% neutral formalin for histopathological evaluation. A large piece of cardiac tissues was divided into two parts; one section was homogenized in phosphate buffer at pH 7.4 to produce cardiac homogenates for oxidative stress biomarkers spectrophotometrically and cytokine assessment by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Other cardiac tissue sections were stored in RNAlater for quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (q-RCR) estimation and lysis buffer for western blotting evaluation.

Determination of serum ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I levels

Rats' sera were used for the measurement of alkaline phosphatase (ALP; CAT# 1,001,132; Spinreact, Spain), aspartate aminotransferase (AST; CAT# 1,001,162; Spinreact, Spain), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH; CAT# 1,001,260; Spinreact, Spain), creatinine kinase-MB (CK-MB; CAT# 41,254; Spinreact, Spain), and troponin-I (CAT# E-EL-R1253; Elabscience, China) levels according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Histological examinations

Cardiac sections were settled in 10% neutral formalin and then desiccated, cleared, embedded in paraffin, cut into 4-5-µm-thick sections, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) based on instructions notarized by Feldman and Wolfe (2014). The slides were evaluated randomly using a light microscope (Olympus, USA). On a scale of 0 to 4, the parameters of the pathological changes were tabulated and graded, with 0 signifying a healthy myocardium or the absence of the parameters in the samples: (1) showing the parameter's observed presence and distribution up to 25% of the region under examination (0–25%); (2) observed existence and distribution of the parameter in between 26 and 50% of the area under study (26-50%); (3) observed existence and distribution of the parameter in between 51 and 75% of the area under study (51-75%); (4) showing that the parameter was present and distributed in more than 75% of the area under study (76-100%) (Molh et al. 2008).

Estimation of antioxidant and oxidative stress parameters

To examine the cardiac oxidative stress, the activity of superoxide dismutase enzyme (SOD), contents of lipid peroxidation (MDA), and reduced glutathione (GSH) in the homogenates of cardiac tissues were measured by the method documented earlier by Marklund (1985), Mihara and Uchiyama (1978), Sedlak and Lindsay (1968), respectively. Also, the enzyme activity of myeloperoxidase (MPO) was estimated colorimetrically based on the instructions authenticated by Manktelow and Meyer (1986).

Determination of inflammatory mediators

To examine CIS-induced inflammation in cardiac tissues, TNF- α (CAT# E-EL-R2856), IL-1 β (CAT# E-EL-R0012), and IL-6 (CAT# E-EL-R0015) levels were measured by ELISA technique based on the manufacturer's directions. The kits were purchased from Elabscience, China.

Estimation of mRNA expressions by qRT-PCR

To inspect the impact of ED and OCA, mRNA expression of p38MAPK, TLR4, NF- κ B-p65, and NLR family pyrin domaincontaining 3 (NLRP3), genes were quantified by real-time PCR using the instrument, real-time PCR system (Applied Biosystems, USA). Briefly, total RNA was segregated by TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, USA). The obtained RNA was determined by nanodrop and then used for cDNA synthesis. The resultant cDNA was aggrandized via SYBR green. The data obtained were evaluated using the 2^{- $\Delta\Delta$ Ct} equation (Livak and Schmittgen 2001) and referenced GAPDH as a housekeeping gene. The primers are indexed in Table 1.

Western blotting

A small section of cardiac tissues was lysed using RIPA buffer, including protease inhibitor cocktail (Biospes, China), and centrifuged at (1200 g for 15 min at 4 °C). Total proteins were estimated from the resultant supernatant based on the method described by Bradford (1976). The proteins were loaded (50 µg in each lane) and then electrophoresed on SDS-polyacrylamide gels and relocated to a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) through a semi-dry transfer manner (Towbin et al. 1979). After being blocked with 5% non-fat dried milk powder for 2 h, the membrane was mixed with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C (El-Shoura et al. 2018). Then, the membranes were handled with secondary antibodies at 37°C for 1 h. Finally, the bands were detected via 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate (BCIP)/nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) system (Genemed, USA). The intensity of the bands was analyzed using ImageJ® software, and the values of each band were represented as the relative protein expression referenced to β -actin bands.

Statistical analysis

Data are introduced by mean \pm standard error of the mean. The data were tested for normality through the Shapiro–Wilk test. Multiple statistical comparisons were made via one-way ANOVA, followed by Tukey's post-hoc test. Meanwhile, the Kruskal–Wallis test was employed to ascertain the difference between the groups obtained as semiquantitative in the histopathological examination. The level of significance at *P*-value < 0.05 was conceived as statistically significant. Differences were made between groups through the GraphPad Prism software (version 8.0, USA).

Results

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on serum ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I levels after CIS challenge

Figure 2 shows that the serum ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I levels of rats in the CIS group were significantly increased compared with the normal control group. In contrast, co-treating rats with OCA or EDVs or their combinations potently decreased the serum levels of ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I. Notably, rats co-administered OCA plus EDV showed noticeably decreased ALP, AST, LDH, CK-MB, and troponin-I levels that exceeded that of OCA and EDV alone.

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on histopathological abnormalities in CIS-injected rats

Histological examination of cardiac tissue of rats stained by H&E showed that CIS administration resulted in disorganization of the normal pattern of cardiac muscles with signs of apoptosis where the muscles are stained deeply eosinophilic and showed pyknotic nuclei. In addition, severely affected fibers have been demonstrated in thinning and interfibrillar hemorrhage. In contrast, OCA treatment showed remarkable

Table 1 PCR	Primer list for qRT-	Target gene	The nucleotide sequence $(5'-3')$	Accession number	Product size
		P38-MAPK	F: AGAGTCTCTGTCGACCTGCT R: CCTGCTTTCAAAGGACTGGT	XM_017601781.1	156
		TLR-4	F: CGAGCCAGAATGAGGACTGG R: TCCCACTCGAGGTAGGTGTT	NM_019178.1	352
		NLRP-3	F: GTGGCTACTCCCAGTGATTTGT R: TGCTTGCTTGGATGCTCCTT	XM_017597078.1	910
		GAPDH	F: TGCTGGTGCTGAGTATGTCG R: TTGAGAGCAATGCCAGCC	NM_017008.4	645



Fig. 2 Effect of EDV, OCA, and their combination on serum ALP (A), AST (B), LDH (C), CK-MB (D), and troponin-I (E) levels after CIS challenge. Results are represented as mean \pm SE of 8 independent values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at

P-value <0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA + CIS group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV + CIS group

preservation of normal pattern arrangement and the histological features of cardiac muscles, while the treatment with EDV provided mild improvement of CIS-induced changes, and still, cardiac muscles appeared thinner but with normal nuclei. Besides, there is still capillary dilation. Interestingly, combination therapy between OCA plus EDV showed marked protection, and the cardiac fiber pattern looked more or less similar to the control group (Fig. 3).

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on the cardiac oxidative injury of CIS-injected rats

Figure 4 illustrated a significant increase in cardiac MDA content and a significant decrease in cardiac antioxidants SOD and GSH levels following CIS injection. Conversely, OCA, EDV, and OCA plus EDV administration resulted in a marked decrease in MDA content, with a significant rise in SOD and GSH levels.

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac Nrf2, PPARy, and SIRT1 signals of CIS-intoxicated rats

Western blotting was used to analyze the levels of protein expression for redox-sensitive signals Nrf2, PPAR, and SIRT1. Here, the proteins Nrf2, PPAR, and SIRT1 were all significantly downregulated in CIS-injected rats. In contrast, oral administration of OCA, EDV, and OCA plus EDV significantly upregulated Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 proteins (Fig. 5).

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac inflammation of CIS-intoxicated rats

The injection of CIS markedly increased cardiac MPO enzymatic activity and cardiac cytokines TNF- α , IL-1 β , and IL-6 levels, as well as NF- κ B expression either mRNA or nuclear translocation, compared with normal control rats. Treatment with OCA, EDV, and OCA plus EDV showed a noticeable decline in cardiac TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, and NF- κ B expressions compared with CIS-injected rats (Fig. 6).

Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac JAK1/STAT3 signals of CIS-intoxicated rats

A western blotting assay assessed the protein expression of JAK1, p-JAK1, STAT3, and p-STAT3. As depicted in Fig. 7, when compared to normal rats, CIS injection increased JAK1 and STAT3 phosphorylation. On the other hand, oral administration of OCA, EDV, and their combination significantly suppressed JAK1 and STAT3 phosphorylation.



Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac p38MAPK/TLR4 and NLRP3 signals of CIS-intoxicated rats

The mRNA expression and protein levels of redox-sensitive signals p38MAPK, TLR4, and NLRP3 were assessed using a qRT-PCR assay, while the protein levels of these biomarkers were assessed by western blotting. In this regard,

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compared to normal rats, the heart of rats injected with CIS alone showed a significant upregulation of both mRNA and protein levels of p38MAPK, TLR4, and NLRP3. Conversely, compared to the CIS control group, oral administration of EDV, OCA, and their combination significantly downregulated p38MAPK, TLR4, and NLRP3 (Fig. 8). We emphasized our results by estimating phosphorylated p38MAPK expression. As expected, the protein expression ◄Fig. 3 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on histopathological abnormalities in CIS-injected rats. A Sections from the left ventricle of the normal rat stained by H&E showed a regular pattern of cardiac muscle fibers with their oval active nuclei and fine transverse striation (black arrows). Blood capillaries are thin walls compressed among the muscles (white arrow). B1 and B2 Sections from CIS-administrated rats showed disorganization of normal patterns with signs of apoptosis represented by deeply eosinophilic stained fibers (dotted arrows) and pyknotic nuclei (black arrows). Sever edema (circle) and wavy myofibers (star) were also observed. Severely affected fibers showed thinning (black arrows) and interfibrillar hemorrhage (white arrows). C Sections from OCA plus CIS-administrated rats showed marked preservation of normal pattern arrangement and histological features of cardiac fibers (black arrows) with the absence of capillary congestion (white arrow) could be observed. D Sections from EDV plus CIS-administrated rats showed minor improvement where focal apoptotic degeneration is still observed (dotted arrows). Other fibers appeared thinner but with normal nuclei (black arrows). There is still capillary dilation (white arrows). E Sections from OCA+EDV plus CIS-administrated rats showed marked protection, and cardiac fibers pattern looked more or less similar to the normal control group. F Semiquantitative analysis of histopathological lesions in heart muscle. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA+CIS group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV+CIS group

of p-p38-MAPK was significantly upregulated in CIS control group as compared to normal control group. In contrast, oral administration of EDV, OCA, and their combination significantly reduced p38-MAPK phosphorylation as compared to CIS control group.

Discussions

Despite its effectiveness in treating a wide range of cancers, the clinical use of CIS as a chemotherapy drug is limited because of the possibility of significant cardiac damage (Dugbartey et al. 2016; Herradón et al. 2017). We do not fully understand the exact mechanism underlying the cardiac damage induced by CIS. However, growing evidence shows ROS overproduction and inflammation are key contributors to CIS-induced cardiac injury (Miller et al. 2010; Barabas et al. 2008; El-Awady el et al. 2011; Qi et al. 2019; Qi et al. 2020). Consequently, it is crucial to thoroughly understand the underlying molecular mechanisms of CIS cardiac toxicity and identify new treatment targets.

In the current investigation, the administration of CIS led to a striking rise in serum levels of ALP, AST, CK-MB, LDH, and troponin-I, as well as significant cardiac histological abrasions. These data are in line with several previous studies (Bukhari et al. 2022; Xu et al. 2021; Gunturk et al. 2019). On the other hand, treatment with OCA, EDV, and their combinations indicated a significant cardiac protective effect, as seen by the decreased levels of these biomarkers. These effects of OCA and EDV can be related to their abilities to suppress oxidative stress and inflammation, preserving the structure and integrity of cardiac cells. Therefore, we aimed to examine the antioxidant and antiinflammatory activities of OCA and EDV, pointing to the impact of Nrf2, PPAR γ , SIRT1, NF- κ B, JAK1/STAT3, and TLR4/p38MAPK signals in these effects.

In the present study, CIS injection increased TNF- α , IL-1β, and IL-6 cytokines and MPO enzymatic activity, indicating a severe inflammatory response. These data are in harmony with several investigations (Oi et al. 2020; Zhao et al. 2018; Xing et al. 2019). In contrast, administration of OCA, EDV, and their combination potently counteracted these elevations. The molecular mechanisms underlying the inflammatory damage of CIS-induced cardiotoxicity have received a lot of interest. In addition to their harmful effects on cellular macromolecules, ROS cause the production of inflammatory mediators such as inducible nitric oxide synthase, TNF- α , IL-1 β , and IL-6 by activating TLR-4 and NF-κB (Baeuerle and Baichwal 1997; Asehnoune et al. 2004; Asami and Shimizu 2021). TLRs play a critical role in the innate immune system as pattern recognition receptors (Lundberg et al. 2013). Importantly, TLR4 mediates the inflammatory response in the heart (Chimenti et al. 2017; Lu et al. 2015). Recent studies have demonstrated that CIS activates TLR4 in different models, such as testicular (Hassanein et al. 2021), renal (Deng et al. 2020), and hepatic (Khedr et al. 2020) injuries. Numerous studies have shown that myocardial tissue injury is primarily caused by an inflammatory response and that this response is fostered by the TLR4 signal, which regulates the generation of proinflammatory mediators and promotes the NF-B pathway (Luo et al. 2020; Xiao et al. 2021). Previous studies reported that OCA and its derivatives had been shown to decrease the release of proinflammatory cytokines in osteoarthritis and acute liver failure (Guo et al. 2021; Pellicciari et al. 2002). TLR4 is involved in CIS-induced epithelium damage among the TLRs. TLR4 on renal parenchymal cells triggers several pathways, including MAPK, which increases the production of inflammatory cytokines and causes kidney damage (Miller et al. 2010).

Side by side, despite its significance in cell survival and proliferation, several data showed that NLRP3 activation has a key role CIS-induced toxicities (Jiang et al. 2021; Li et al. 2019). Moreover, strong evidence has been reported that NLRP3 activation is critical in myocardial inflammation and damage (Minutoli et al. 2016). NLRP3 inflammasome was activated by ROS, which was recently shown to have a significant role in promoting the inflammatory response (Liu et al. 2016). Additionally, the circulating proinflammatory cytokines activate the JAK/STAT system to start downstream signal transduction, and phosphorylated STAT proteins transform into potent transcription factors for particular STAT-target genes (Malemud and Pearlman 2009). JAK1

Fig. 4 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on the cardiac oxidative injury of CISinjected rats. A MDA, B GSH, and C SOD were measured spectrophotometrically. Results are represented as mean \pm SE of 8 independent values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at P-value < 0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA + CIS group



is necessary for receptor signaling by IL-6-type cytokines, even though these cytokines may activate other JAK kinase family members. The recruitment of inflammatory cells is encouraged by phosphorylated STAT3, intensifying the inflammatory response (Xin et al. 2020; Rawlings et al. 2004). In the current study, CIS injection elevated JAK1 and STAT3 phosphorylation. Conversely, oral administration of OCA, EDV, and their combination dramatically reduced JAK1 and STAT3 phosphorylation compared to the CIS control group. Taken together, OCA and EDV can attenuate TLR4/NF- κ B/NLRP-3 and JAK1/STAT-3 pathway activation and, in turn, suppress inflammatory cytokines-induced myocardial damage.

The cardiomyocyte may suffer severe oxidative damage from excessive ROS, which could damage the cells and cause cardiac damage (Deavall et al. 2012; Costa et al. 2013). Interestingly, several studies showed that antioxidants or ROS scavengers might significantly reduce the cardiac damage induced by CIS (Yüce et al. 2007; Qi et al. 2022). Oxidative stress caused by CIS was evidenced by increased MDA and decreased GSH and SOD. The generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is increased by CIS, and this might affect cellular macromolecules by, for example, peroxidizing membrane lipids and thereby altering the membrane's fluidity and permeability. Furthermore, ROS's high oxidative activity may lead to the depletion of GSH and antioxidant enzymes. These findings are supported by several previous studies (Yüce et al. 2007; Qi et al. 2022). In contrast, OCA, EDV, and their combinations markedly decreased heart MDA content with a marked boosting of the antioxidant status by increasing cardiac antioxidants GSH and SOD. In various experimental models, EDV reduced oxidative stress. As evidenced by the improvement in heart function and the decrease in histological injury, treatment with EDV had an antioxidant protective effect on the heart (Hassanein et al. 2020a; Hassan et al. 2015). In diabetic cardiomyopathy, EDV improved cardiac function by upregulating Nrf2 and SIRT1 and potently counteracted heart oxidative injury (Ji et al. 2016). Also, OCA exhibited antioxidant effects in different models, such as valproic acid-induced hepatotoxicity (Gai et al. 2020) and hepatorenal syndrome in ascitic cirrhotic rats (Tsai et al. 2020).

To emphasize the mechanism(s) behind the protective effect of OCA and EDV against CIS-induced oxidative and inflammatory responses in the heart, we evaluated the changes in Nrf2, PPAR, and SIRT1 signals. Nrf2 can directly inhibit NF-B and the inflammatory response while concurrently activating anti-inflammatory pathways to limit the inflammatory cascade (Wardyn et al. 2015). Previous investigations have shown that Nrf2 activation reduces the harmful effects of chemotherapy on the heart (Wang et al. 2022; Hassanein et al. 2020a). In parallel, PPARγ upregulates the expression



Fig. 5 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 signals of CIS-intoxicated rats. A Western blot bands of Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 protein expressions. B Semiquantitative analysis of PPAR γ . C Semiquantitative analysis of SIRT1. D Semiquantitative analysis of Nrf2. Results are represented as

mean \pm SE of 3 independent values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at *P*-value < 0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV + CIS group



Fig. 6 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac inflammation of CIS-challenged rats. A NF- κ B mRNA expression, B Western blot bands for total and nuclear NF- κ B-p65, C semiquantitative analysis of nuclear NF- κ B-p65, D TNF- α , E IL-1 β , F IL-6, G MPO. Results are represented as mean ± SE of 8 independent

values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at P-value < 0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA + CIS group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV + CIS group

Fig. 7 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac JAK1/STAT3 signals of CIS-challenged rats. A Western blot bands of JAK1, p-JAK1, STAT3, p-STAT3 protein expressions. B Semiquantitative analysis of p-JAK1/JAK. C Semiquantitative analysis of p-STAT3/STAT3. Results are represented as mean \pm SE of 3 independent values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at *P*-value < 0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA + CIS group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV + CIS group





Fig.8 Effect of OCA or EDV and their combination on cardiac p38MAPK/TLR4 and NLRP3 signals of CIS-intoxicated rats. **A** p38MAPK; **B** TLR4; **C** NLRP3; **D** Western blot bands for p38MAPK, TLR4, and NLRP3; **E** semiquantitative analysis of p38MAPK; **F** semiquantitative analysis of p-p38MAPK; **G** semiquantitative analysis of TLR4; **H** semiquantitative analysis of NLRP3. Results are represented as mean \pm SE of 8 independent values and statistically conducted using a one-way ANOVA test at *P*-value <0.05. a represents a significant difference from the normal control group. b represents a significant difference from the CIS control group. c represents a significant difference from the OCA+CIS group. d represents a significant difference from the EDV+CIS group

of antioxidant genes (Okuno et al. 2010) and inhibits NF-κB activation (Mateu et al. 2015). In various models of cardiac damage, including diabetic cardiomyopathy (Gbr et al. 2021) and sepsis-induced cardiac dysfunction (Peng et al. 2017), the anti-inflammatory impact of PPAR has been mediated by suppressing NF-κB. Also, SIRT1 ensures cell survival by deacetylating substrate proteins under oxidative stress (Farghali et al. 2019; Raynes et al. 2013) and negative regulation of NF-κB activity (Chen et al. 2005). In the present investigation, CIS injection decreased Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1. In contrast, OCA and EDV increased Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1. Consequently, improvements in antioxidant defenses and reduced oxidative stress and inflammation were attributed to Nrf2, PPAR γ , and SIRT1 activation in the heart of CISadministered rats treated with OCA and EDV.

Conclusions

The results of the present study revealed that CIS cardiotoxicity could be prevented by using EDV, OCA, and combination therapy. This effect could be attributed to the interplay of antioxidant and anti-inflammatory capabilities of tested agents through modulation of Nrf2/PPAR γ /SIRT1, JAK1/ STAT3/NF- κ B, and TLR4/P38MAPK signaling pathways. Notably, the combination therapy between OCA and EDV exhibited the highest protective outcomes rather than each drug alone. Their effects on tumor reduction and cytotoxic activity of CIS should be considered in future work. In this regard, the promising results of this combination attract to recommend use in the regimen of CIS therapy.

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Author contributions Ehab A.M. El-Shoura: Conceptualization, Methodology, Reviewing, and Editing. Emad H.M. Hassanein: Conceptualization, Data curation, Writing-Original draft preparation, Formal analysis. Hesham H. Taha: Data curation, Resources, Reviewing, and Editing. Abdel-Gawad S. Shalkami: Methodology, Reviewing, and Editing. Mohamed Mahmoud Hussein Hassanein: Data curation, Resources, Reviewing, and Editing. Fares E.M. Ali: Conceptualization, Methodology, Reviewing, and Editing. Adel G. Bakr: Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Reviewing, and Editing. The authors declare that all data were generated in-house and that no paper mill was used.

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Data availability The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethical approval The ethical use of laboratory animals was carried out according to the National Institute of Health (NIH) Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and approved from the Faculty of Phar-

macy Ethical Committee et al.-Azhar University (approval number: ZA-AS/PH/5/C/2022).

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

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