

Past and Future of *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* Animal Models for Diabetes: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Diabetes mellitus is classified into two major types, Type 1 (Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus) and Type 2 (Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus). In world about 90% of diabetes patients are of Type 2 diabetes. There are various *in-vivo* and *in-vitro* methods available for the screening of new antidiabetic drugs. *In-vivo* models mainly uses chemical such as *streptozotocin*, alloxan etc. for the induction of diabetes where as *in-vitro* techniques, directly show its effect on cells which are responsible for induction of diabetes in human. *In vitro* techniques provide more accurate data and possible mechanism which are involved in diabetes disease. Now, a day's newer techniques such as diabetes induction with the help of viruses had been also introduced which are proving to be good tool in evaluation of antidiabetic drugs. This review could prove to be a good tool for the researchers who seek to do research on diabetes as it is providing vast resource about diabetic model under single umbrella.

Key words: Diabetes, *in vivo*, *in vitro*, STZ, Alloxan.

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes is considered as a severe health hitch being the third major cause of death all over the world. Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a global epidemic with an estimated worldwide prevalence of 6% (246 million people) in 2007, and forecast to rise to 7.3% (380 million) by 2025. Diabetes, if not treated, is conscientious for much harm affecting various organs in the body.¹ Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a metabolic disorder resulting from a defect in insulin secretion and/or insulin action, which results in hyperglycemia with disturbances of carbohydrate, fat, and protein metabolism.² It is a disease mainly resulting from idiosyncrasy of carbohydrate metabolism. It is mainly described by absolute (type I) or relative (type II) lack in insulin emission or receptor desensitization to insulin, ensuing in hyperglycemia.³ Diabetes mellitus is associated with oxidative stress induced micro- and macrovascular complications.

Long-term complications of diabetes mellitus involve almost all the vital organs such as heart, eyes, kidney, blood vessels, and nervous system.⁴ One therapeutic approach to treat diabetes is to retard the absorption of glucose via inhibition of enzymes, such as α -glucosidase, in the digestive organs.⁵

Diabetes mellitus is classified into two major types, Type 1 (Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus) and Type 2 (Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus). In world about 90% of diabetes patients are of Type 2 diabetes.⁶

The studies of diabetes in *in-vivo* and newer *in vitro* techniques are important for the development of acquaintance and clear indulgent of the pathology and pathogenesis, and to discover new therapy. Diabetic study on different animal models is therefore, significantly of use in biomedical research as they offer new insights to diabetes.⁷

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Most of the animal models available are based on rodents because of their shorter generation intervals, small size, and monetary considerations. There are several experimental diabetes methods that include: diabetes on genetically modified animals, chemical and surgical. Screening of new drug requires an appropriate animal model and other environmental condition for treatment of diabetes.⁸

The major objective of the present review is to bring collectively all different *in vivo* models and *in vitro* methods under one plane so that it may be useful to researchers who are seeking their experimental work on diabetes.

In-vivo studies

Diabetes induction with chemicals:

The bulk of work available in the meadow of ethnopharmacology between 1995 and 2007 employed this model. *Streptozotocin* (STZ, 69%) and alloxan (31%) are by far the most frequently used drugs and this model has been useful for the study of multiple aspects of the disease. Both drugs wield their antidiabetic action when they are administered parenterally (intraperitoneally, intravenously, or subcutaneously). The required dose of these agents for inducing diabetes depends on the animal species, route of administration.⁹

Streptozotocin model of diabetes mellitus

Streptozotocin prevents the development of DNA in bacterial cells and mammalian cells. It acts on cytosine groups in bacteria, causing relapse and damage of DNA.¹⁰ The invasion of *Streptozotocin* in pancreatic cell is through a glucose transporter-GLUT2 and causes alkylation of DNA (Figure 1). STZ also persuade activation of poly adenosine diphosphate ribosylation and nitric oxide release. With the consequence of STZ action, pancreatic -cells are destroyed by necrosis.¹¹

Procedure

Adult male Wistar rats should be maintained under controlled laboratory conditions at the temperature of $25 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ with $60 \pm 15\%$ humidity and 12 h dark/light cycle. Male wistar rats (160-240 gm) must be maintained on standard chow diet and water ad libitum. *Streptozotocin* (60 mg/kg) is administered by intravenous injection. Initially blood glucose increases to 150- 200 mg % within three h after administration of *streptozotocin*. A phase of hypoglycemia occurs due to four-fold increase in serum insulin level, and this phase is followed by persistence hyperglycemia.¹² In recent times a new animal model of Type 2 diabetes has been suggested by combining STZ and NAD in adult rats (160-240 gm).

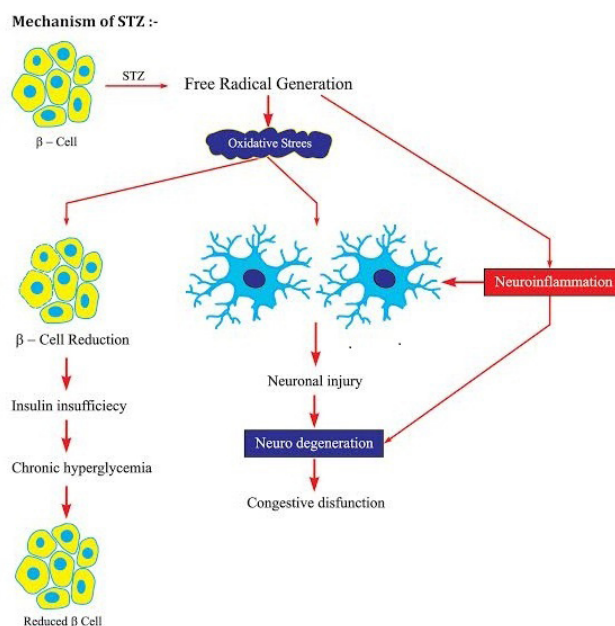


Figure 1: Mechanism of action of Streptozotocin.

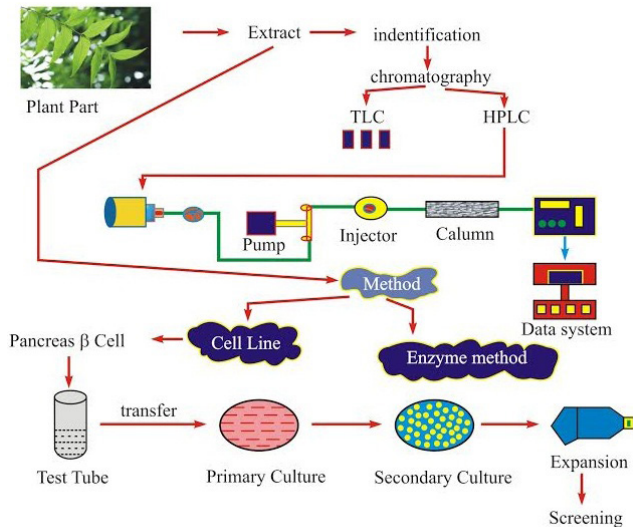
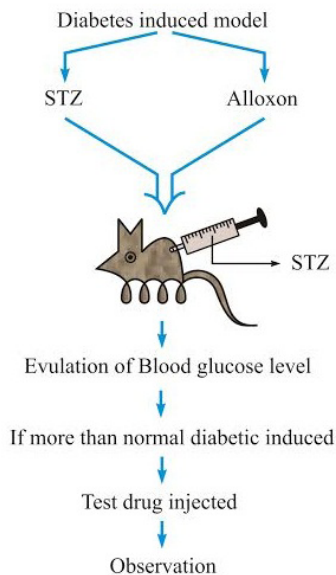
The rats are injected NAD (230 mg/kg, ip) 15 min before STZ (65 mg/kg, iv) administration. With combining this it has shown evenhanded and stable non-fasting hyperglycemia without any significant change in insulin level. NAD is an antioxidant which exerts its defensive effect on the cytotoxic action of STZ by scavenging free radicals.¹³

Alloxan model of diabetes mellitus

Alloxan is also one of the used chemical for induction of diabetes mellitus. It is a famous diabetogenic agent extensively used to persuade Type 1 diabetes in animals. Alloxan is a urea derivative which causes selective necrosis of the pancreatic islet β -cells (Figure 2). This urea derivative is frequently used to create diabetes in animals such as rabbits, rats, mice and dogs.¹⁴

Procedure

1. In White New Zealand rabbits (2.5-4 kg), Alloxan monohydrate (5gm/100ml, at pH 4.5) is infused via marginal ear vein in a dose of 150 mg/ kg during a course of 10 mints. Following these injections 70% of the animals become hyperglycemic and uricosuric.¹⁵
2. In wistar or Sprague Dawley rats (150-200 gm), Alloxan monohydrate is injected subcutaneously with 100-175 mg / kg.¹⁵
3. In male beagle dogs (15-20 gm), are injected intravenously with 60/mg /kg of alloxan monohydrate. Subsequently they are administered 1000 ml of 5 %

In vitro Model for Antidiabetic Activity :-**Graphical Abstract for In vitro Model for Antidiabetic Activity****Figure 2: Pictorial abstract of in vitro activity.****In vivo model for Antidiabetic Activity :-****Graphical Abstract for In vivo Model for Antidiabetic Activity****Figure 3: Pictorial representation of in vivo activity.**

glucose solution with 10 IU of regular insulin i.v. for one week along with the canned food *ad libitum*.¹⁵ Alloxan induced diabetes serve as an important pathological bio model for testing a substance antidiabetic activity. The administration of Alloxan in animal models results in pancreatic lesion which is proportional to the dose of the drug injected.

Dithizone induced diabetes

Dithizone is an organo-sulfur compound, used in generation of diabetes in experimental animal's models. Administration of dithizone in animals causes the levels of zinc, iron, and potassium in the blood to increase more than normal. Dithizone, after permeating through membranes form a complex with zinc which causes release of protons thus, is providing diabetogenicity.¹⁶

Procedure

Injection of various chelators, such as dithizone, 8-(p-toluenesulfonylamino)-quinoline (8-TSQ), and 8-(benzenesulfanylamino)-quinoline (8-BSQ) in a single i.v. dose of 40–100 mg/kg to cats, rabbits, golden hamsters and mice induces type 2 diabetes. Dithizone injection causes a triphasic glycemc reaction in rabbits. Phases of initial hyperglycemia are detected after 2 h, followed by a normoglycemic phase after 8 h and a secondary permanent hyperglycemic phase after 24–72 h. Histologically, complete and partial degranulation of beta cells is observed.¹⁵

Monosodium glutamate induced diabetes

Monosodium glutamate (MSG) increases glutamate concentration in plasma. MSG activates insulin release. MSG administration in mice results in obesity allied with increase in insulin level. It also causes increase in blood glucose, total cholesterol and triglyceride levels.^{17,18}

Procedure

Adult male Wistar rats are maintained under controlled laboratory conditions at the temperature of $25 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ with $60 \pm 15\%$ humidity and 12 h dark/light cycle. All rats are fed *ad libitum* with a standard rat chow pellet and provided drinking water purified by reverse osmosis (RO), either with or without MSG. Eighty rats are randomly arrayed into four groups to be observed for 1, 3, 6, or 9 months, with 20 rats in each group. Each group included control ($n = 10$) and MSG-treated ($n = 10$) rats. MSG-treated rats are supplemented with a commercially available 99%-pure food-grade package of MSG added to daily drinking water at the final daily dose of 2 mg/g body weight. Food intake and body weight are recorded every one or two weeks, respectively, and rats from different groups were sacrificed at 1, 3, 6, or 9 months following a 12-hour fasting by intraperitoneal Nembutal injection. Blood and pancreatic tissue were collected for functional and morphological study.¹⁹

Insulin antibodies induced diabetes

The antibodies of insulin have greater affinity and ability to combine with insulin. The deficiency of insulin mechanism may enhance postprandial hyperglycemia. This

happens because antibody-bound insulin is not available to tissues, and this causes prolongation of postprandial hyperinsulinemia which might lead to hyperglycemia.²⁰

Procedure

Bovine insulin, dissolved in acidified water (pH 3.0), is incorporated in a water-oil emulsion based on complete Freund's adjuvant or a mixture of paraffin oil and lanolin. A dose of 1 mg insulin is injected in divided doses subcutaneously to male guinea pigs weighing 300–400 gm. Injections are given at monthly intervals and the guinea pigs are bled by cardiac puncture two weeks after the second and subsequent doses of antigen. It is possible to get 10 ml blood from every animal once a month. Intravenous injection of 0.25–1.0 ml guinea pig anti-insulin serum to rats induces a dose-dependent increase of blood glucose reaching values up to 300 mg%. This effect is unique to guinea pig anti-insulin serum and is due to neutralization by insulin antibodies of endogenous insulin secreted by the injected animal. In this way a state of insulin deficiency is induced. It persists if antibodies capable of reacting with insulin remain in the circulation. Slow rate intravenous infusion or intraperitoneal injection prolongs the effect for more than a few h. However, large doses and prolonged administration accompanied by ketonemia, ketonuria, glucosuria, and acidosis are fatal to the animals. After lower doses, the diabetic syndrome is reversible after a few h.^{21,22}

Ferric nitrilotriacetate induction of diabetes

Parenteral administrations of daily dose of ferric nitrilotriacetate in experimental animals for 60 days noticeable diabetic symptoms are observed such as hyperglycemia, glycosuria, ketonemia and ketonuria.²³

Procedure

Ferric nitrate is dissolved in 1.0 N HCl. To produce Fe³⁺-NTA solution, 162 ml of a 0.1 M ferric nitrate solution are added to 100 ml of 0.08 M disodium nitrilotriacetate solution, and the pH was adjusted to 7.4 with sodium bicarbonate powder under magnetic stirring.^{2-5,27} The mixture was prepared immediately before use.²⁴

A total of 224 inbred Wistar rats and 12 albino adult rabbits are used. The rats are divided into four major groups: Group I include animals treated with large doses of Fe³⁺-NTA and their controls. Group II animals are used for examining hourly variations in serum iron levels after a single injection of Fe³⁺-NTA. Group III animals are used for assessing the effects of blood depletion after Fe³⁺-NTA overload. Group IV animals are used for observations of fibrotic changes in liver and pancreas after long-term, lethal injections of

Fe³⁺-NTA. Group I (N = 120) rats are divided into four subgroups of 30 each: Group Ia rats receive daily intraperitoneal (i.p.) injections of Fe³⁺-NTA in the following sequence: 0.2 mg Fe/100 g body weight daily for 3 weeks, 0.6 mg Fe/100 g body weight daily for the next 3 weeks, and 1.0 mg Fe/100 g body weight daily for the remaining 2 months. The total amount of iron administered to each animal was approximately 200 mg. Group Ib rats are injected i.p. for the same duration with the same concentration of disodium nitrilotriacetate (Na₂-NTA) as Group Ia animals (NTA controls). Group Ic animals receive equivalent injections of iron in colloid form (ferric hydroxide chondroitin sulfate colloid), as Group Ia animals. Group Id rats were untreated controls. Blood and urinary glucose and ketones were measured once weekly. After manifestation of glucosuria, urinary glucose is measured twice weekly in the morning. Animal body weight is measured twice weekly. Histological studies are conducted after sacrifice. Group II rats (N = 56) receive one i.p. injection of Fe³⁺-NTA at 1.0 mg Fe/100 g body weight. Blood is collected from the frontal orbital sinus at different intervals after injection. Serum iron concentration and the total iron-binding capacity are measured. Group III rats (N = 24) should receive daily Fe³⁺-NTA injections in the same schedule as Group Ia animals. After 2 months of iron loading, 2 ml of blood are withdrawn from the frontal orbital sinus once weekly for 4 weeks. Blood and urinary sugar are measured twice weekly. At 5 weeks after termination of Fe³⁺-NTA treatment, the animals are killed. Histochemical investigations of organ iron and beta-granules in pancreatic islet cells are performed. Group IV rats (N = 24) receive daily injections of Fe³⁺-NTA by extending the schedule of Group Ia animals until death. Histological observations are conducted on the tissue for cirrhotic changes.^{25,26}

Goldthioglucose obese diabetic mouse model

Gold thioglucose (GTG) is a diabetic inducing compound, which causes obesity induced Type -2 diabetes. Intraperitoneally administration GTG in experimental animal gradually develops obesity, hyperinsulinemia, and hyperglycemia. The GTG is transported to a cell and causes necrotic lesions, conscientious for the growth of hyperphagia and obesity. GTG also increases hepatic lipogenesis, body lipid content, and triglyceride secretion.^{27,28}

Procedure

Swiss albino mice of either sex is fed with commercial mouse chow ad libitum. At the age of six weeks, the

animals receive a single intraperitoneal injection of 30-40 mg/kg Gold thioglucose. Food intake is registered for 2 weeks and body weight for a period 3 month and compared with untreated controls.¹⁵

Virus Induced Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus produced by viruses is mainly by destroying and infecting pancreatic beta cells. Many human viruses have been used for inducing diabetes like Mengo-2T, reovirus, Coxsackie B4, RNA picornaviruses, encephalomyocarditis (EMC-D and M variants) and lymphocytic choriomeningitis.^{29,30}

Coxsackie viruses

In mice Coxsackie viruses also cause diabetes by destroying pancreatic acinar cells. Coxsackie B4 virus is sturdily connected with the progress of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in humans. Diabetes caused by the infection with Coxsackie virus triggers the discharge of sequestered islet antigen ensuing in the re-stimulation of auto reactive T cells.^{31,32}

Spontaneous Diabetic Obese Rodent Models

***Ob/ob* mouse**

Leptin deficiency in mouse strain *ob/ob*, due to mutation in leptin gene leads to severe insulin resistance. The strain *ob/ob* shows rapid gain in body weight, insulin resistance and hyperinsulinemia. In the *ob/ob* model, hyperinsulinemia occurs at 3 to 4 weeks of age simultaneously with insulin resistance and hyperphagia. The sign of Type 2 DM of *ob/ob* mice increases with age with continuous decline in plasma insulin levels.^{33,34}

***db/db* mouse**

The mutation of *db* gene occurs impulsively in the leptin-receptor deficient C57BL/KsJ mice. The strain is originally derived from mutation on chromosome number 4.³⁵ The *db/db* mouse acquires hyperphagic, hyperinsulinemia, and insulin resistant conditions within 2 weeks of age. The obesity develops at the age of 3 to 4 weeks with development of hyperglycemia at the age of 4 to 8 weeks.³⁶ The *db/db* mouse are used to study micro vascular diabetic and renal complications.^{37,38}

***Kuo Kondo* mouse**

The Kuo Kondo (KK) mouse is model of obesity and Type 2DM.³⁹ KK mouse instinctively exhibits diverse hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, and adiposity.⁴⁰ At the age of 2 months, the KK mouse acquires obesity due to insulin resistance, compensatory hyperinsulinemia and hyperphagic. The insulin resistance and hyperin-

sulinemia have been reported to reach the peak at 5 months.⁴¹

Zucker Diabetic Fatty (ZDF) rat

The Zucker diabetic fatty (ZDF) rats are more insulin resistant, less obese, and quickly development to diabetes due to lack of adequate insulin secretion.⁴² The male ZDF rat develops fully diabetic conditions at 12 weeks. The serum insulin levels normally reach the peak at about 7 to 10 weeks.⁴³

Otsuka Long-Evans Tokushima Fatty (OLETF) rat

The OLETF rat acquires hyperglycemia at around age of 18 to 25. An OLETF rat develops obesity, hyperinsulinemia, hyperglycemia, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia and beginning of diabetes like human Type 2DM. Many recessive genes on numerous chromosomes together with the X chromosome are concerned in the induction of diabetes in OLETF rats.^{44,45}

Cohen diabetic rat

It is a genetic model resulting from diet-induced Type 2 DM model by introducing the rat on a synthetic 72% sucrose copper-poor diet for 2 months. The symptoms include insulin resistance, hyperinsulinemia, and non-obesity. The Cohen diabetic rat expresses genetic receptiveness to a carbohydrate-rich diet which is a feature of Type 2 DM in human.⁴⁶

Surgical models of diabetes mellitus

This technique uses complete removal of pancreas to induce diabetes. Mostly, this model had been employed in the last years on animal species such as rats, pigs, dogs and primates to explore effects of natural products.^{47,48} There are several disadvantages to this technique including (1) good technical expertise and proper surgical room atmosphere, (2) good hands on major surgery and high menace of animal contagion, (3) proper post-operative analgesia and antibiotic administration, (4) addition of pancreatic enzymes in the diet to prevent malabsorption.⁴⁹

Genetic models of diabetes

Spontaneously develop diabetic rat

These models allow the evaluation of antidiabetic effect of a natural product in an animal without the meddling of adverse effect induced by drugs like alloxan and *Streptozotocin*. An example for this is spontaneously diabetic *Goto-Kakizaki* rat, is a genetic lean model of type1 diabetes evolving from careful breeding over many generations of glucose-intolerant diabetic *mistar* rats.⁵⁰ Concerning type1 diabetes models, the mouse characteristically generates hyperglycemia between 12 and 30 weeks of age, whereas in BB rats it occurs around

12 weeks of age. One of great benefit of these models is that they can be used as model of atherosclerosis which generally represents the enduring impediment of diabetes mellitus.⁵¹

Genetically engineered diabetic mice

There is a significant advancement in the field in recent years, especially with the advent of transgenic mice. In this case, rodents may be evolved to over (transgenic) or under (knockout) - express proteins considering playing a key part in glucose metabolism.^{52,53} Presently there have been no protocols carried out concerning natural products and these models. Possibly, the high costs limit their study in complicated protocols which explore mechanisms of potential beneficial agents.⁵⁴

In-vitro methods

Assay of amylase inhibition

600 µl of (10,20,40,60,80,100µg/ml) test sample, 1.2 ml of starch in phosphate buffer (pH 6.9) containing 6.7mM of sodium chloride are added. The reaction is initiated by adding 600 µl porcine pancreatic amylase and incubated at 37°C. From the above mixture 600 µl is taken and 300 µl of DNSA (1g of DNSA, 30g of sodium potassium tartarate and 20 mL of 2N sodium hydroxide was added and made up to a final volume of 100 mL with distilled water) and is kept in a boiling water bath for 15 min. The reaction mixture diluted with 2.7 ml of water and absorbance is read at 540 nm. For each concentration, blank tubes are prepared by replacing the enzyme solution with 600 µL in distilled water. Control, representing 100% enzyme activities are prepared in a similar manner, without test sample. The experiments are repeated thrice using the same protocol.⁵⁵

The α-amylase inhibitory activity was calculated by using the formula

$$\text{Inhibition \%} = \frac{\text{Abs}_{540 \text{ nm}}(\text{Control}) - \text{Abs}_{540 \text{ nm}}(\text{drug sample})}{\text{Abs}_{540 \text{ nm}}(\text{control})} \times 100$$

Inhibition of α-glucosidase activity

Method A

Enzyme solution is prepared by dissolving 0.5 mg α glucosidase in 10 ml phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 20 mg bovine serum albumin. The solution is further diluted in the ratio of 1:10 with phosphate buffer. Sample solution should be prepared by dissolving 4 mg sample in 400 µl dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and was referred as sample blank. Five concentrations 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250 µml are prepared. To each 5 µml of the sample solution and DMSO add P- nitro phenyl-

α-D- glucopyranoside with phosphate buffer (pH7.0). The solutions are incubated at 37 °C for 15 min. After 15 min add Na₂CO₃ (1000µl) solution. Absorbance of the sample against sample blank is measured at 400nm using UV visible spectrophotometer.⁵⁶

The inhibition activity is calculated according to the formula

$$\% \text{inhibition} = \frac{E_c - (ET - EC)}{EC} \times 100$$

Method B

200 µl of alpha glucosidase enzyme solution was prepared and preincubated with different concentration of the test and standard drug solution for 5 min. To all the test tubes 200 µl of 37 m M sucrose are added. All the tubes were incubated for 30 mints at 37⁰ C to allow the enzymatic action and drug action. After 30 min the tubes are taken out from the incubator and heated at 100⁰ C for 10 min. The liberated glucose is determined by glucose oxidase peroxidase (GOD-POD) method at 546 nm and calculating with relative blank control.⁵⁷

The alpha glucose inhibitory activities of the test drug are calculated as

$$\% \alpha \text{ glucosidase inhibition} = \frac{\text{Absorbance}(\text{Blank}) - \text{Absorbance}(\text{test / standard})}{\text{Absorbance}(\text{Blank})} \times 100$$

In-vitro studies on insulin secretion

Antidiabetic agents can influence many pathways of glucose metabolism such as insulin discharge, glucose uptake by target organs as well as nutrient absorption. Recently, *in vitro* studies were carried out considering incretins⁵⁸ and transcription factors such as peroxisome proliferators activated receptors. PPAR are targets of modern therapy. Insulin receptor, glucose transporters, on the other hand, has not been yet the target of anti-diabetic therapy. There are few studies revealing the use of natural products has been published.^{59,60}

Studies using insulin-secreting cell lines

Development in Bioengineering technologies have given various new methods to develop and create more suitable cultured cell lines to assist studies of mechanisms of both insulin secretion and cell dysfunction. The most extensively used insulin-secreting cell lines are beta-TC, RIN, HIT, MIN6 and INS-1 cells. These cell lines liberate mainly insulin, small amounts of glucagon and somatostatin. The actions of these cell lines never completely reduce primary cell physiology but, they are

tremendously precious tools for the study of molecular proceedings underlying cell function.⁶¹

Studies using isolated pancreatic islet cell lines

The pathway which is responsible for diabetes can be studied with isolated pancreatic β -cells from either control or transference of these beta cells to appropriated culture medium. It is a well-known phenomenon that insulin emission occurs when pancreatic cells make use of glucose to create adenosine triphosphate (ATP) from adenosine diphosphate (ADP).⁶² The raise in cytoplasmic ATP/ADP ratio closes ATP-sensitive potassium channels, causing depolarization of the plasma membrane, which activates voltage dependent Ca^{2+} channels. This results in rise of intracellular Ca^{2+} level which initiates insulin secretion. In type 2 diabetes, pancreatic cells show uncharacteristic ion channel activity and an atypical pattern of insulin secretion. These pathways can be depicted with isolated pancreatic cells from either control or diabetic rat or mouse that can be obtained by collagenase digestion technique, followed by adequate separation and transference to appropriated culture medium.^{63,64}

In-vitro studies on glucose uptake

The main key link between obesity and Type 2 diabetes is adipose tissue because it promotes the progress of lip toxicity, i.e. cell destruction because of prominent intracellular lipid concentrations and insulin resistance. The resistance of insulin either at the adipocytes or skeletal muscle levels causes hyperglycemia. However, adipocytes located on different sites of the body may have diverse biological or pathological effects. Insulin resistance pathways may be studied in cell lines of adipocytes such as marine 3T3-L1 cells and rat L6 muscle engineered to over-express GLUT4.^{65,66}

CONCLUSION

In this review an emphasis had been made to cover all *in-vivo* models and *in-vitro* techniques for the researcher who is seeking their research work in diabetes. *In-vitro* models had been described on the basis that animal's models have near about same characteristics features as human diabetes. Each model mentioned above are necessary tools for researching about endocrine physiology, metabolic changes and genetic changes involved in mechanism of occurrence of diabetes in human. More emphasis should be made on development of newer *in-vitro* techniques for the evaluation and treatment of diabetes. *In-vitro* methods used now days may be costly, but the result assessed through them confers the exact mechanism of diabetes occurrence. Still, more animal models and software based study should be developed for more advancement in diabetes research.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

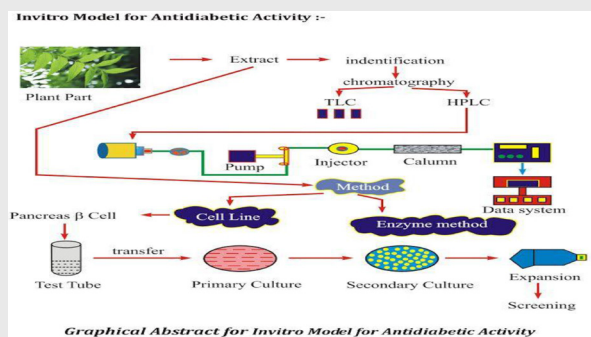
STZ: *Streptozotocin*; **DNA:** Deoxyribonucleic acid; **Glut-2:** Glutamate 2 receptor; **NAD:** Nicotinamide; **MSG:** Monosodium glutamate; **GTC:** Goldthioglucose; **EMC-D:** Encephalomyocarditis; **KK:** Kuo Kondo Mice; **ZDF:** Zucker Dibetic fatty rats.

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PICTORIAL ABSTRACT



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SUMMARY

- In world about 90% of diabetes patients are of Type 2 diabetes. Diabetic study on different animal models is therefore, significantly of use in biomedical research as they offer new insights to diabetes. There are several experimental diabetes methods that include: diabetes on genetically modified animals, chemical and surgical. Screening of new drug requires an appropriate animal model and other environmental condition for treatment of diabetes. *In-vivo* studies mainly includes induction of diabetes with the use of chemicals such as streptozotocin, alloxan, Dithizone, monosodium glutamate etc. Similarly, various *in vitro* methods are also available which provides more accurate and precise result for the screening of antidiabetic drug. Now days, newer models such as virus induced diabetes, spontaneous diabetic obese rodent models, genetic model etc. are also being incorporated for the induction of diabetes and screening of new antidiabetic drugs. The selection of particular animal model particularly depends upon the investigators choice whether to use inbred or out bred, availability of particular strain, aim of scientific strategy, type of drug being sought, institutional financial and facility resources in the Type 2 diabetes research and pharmaceutical drug discovery and development programme.

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