

Original Research Article  
**AMELIORATIVE EFFECT OF GRAPE SEED OIL ON  
ALUMINIUM CHLORIDE INDUCED NEUROTOXICITY  
ON RATS**

**ABSTRACT**

**Aims:** Neurodegenerative disorder is characterized by progressive loss of structure and function of neurons. Exposure to aluminium causes neurodegenerative disorder like dementia, Alzheimer's disease (AD). The present study was designed to examine the ameliorative effect of grape seed oil extract (GSO) on aluminium chloride (AlCl<sub>3</sub>) induced neurotoxicity in Wistar rats.

**Methodology:** AlCl<sub>3</sub> was given orally (175 mg/kg, p.o.) to rats from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 which markedly increased the level of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity and reduced the levels of antioxidant enzymes in the brain. Two doses of grape seed oil (3.7/kg, p.o.) were selected based on previous safety/toxicity studies and administered from 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Wistar rats administered with AlCl<sub>3</sub> (175 mg/kg, p.o.) for 28-days to generate neurotoxicity model. Attenuation effect of GSO against AlCl<sub>3</sub> toxicity by oral administration adjunctly from day 18. Behavioral and locomotor activity were determined using passive avoidance test, open field test, actophotometer and rota rod test. Biochemical parameter such as acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity and superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and glutathione reductase (GR) activity were assessed in brain samples ~~content~~ and histology of brain tissue were assessed on the final day of the experiment.

**Results:** AlCl<sub>3</sub> treatment significantly decreases cognitive function and open field test with significance decrease in the AChE and antioxidant (SOD, CAT, GR) activity level. Also, the histopathological examination shows significance decrease in the neuronal cell density at hippocampal region. Administration of GSO treated along with AlCl<sub>3</sub> neurotoxic groups, caused alleviates all the toxicity induced by the AlCl<sub>3</sub>. An improvement in the memory and locomotor activity. GSO inhibited the acetylcholinesterase enzyme and regulated the levels of antioxidant parameters (superoxide dismutase, glutathione reductase, catalase) in brain. Histopathological studies in the hippocampus and cortex of the rat brain also supported that the GSO markedly reduced the toxicity of AlCl<sub>3</sub>.

**Conclusion:** ~~The results implied that~~ Supplementation of GSO exhibited with beneficial and neuroprotective role on AlCl<sub>3</sub> induced neurotoxicity in Wistar rats model by improving the cognitive memory and antioxidant enzyme level. with GSO caused a significant augmentation in memory and locomotor activity. It also increased the levels of antioxidant as well as acetylcholine levels. Therefore, the grape seed oil can be used as a neuroprotectant during Al induced neurotoxicity.

**Keywords:** AlCl<sub>3</sub> neurotoxicity, antioxidant, AChE, GSO.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Neurodegenerative disorder such as Dementia, Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD), are characterized by progressive loss ~~(and even death)~~ of structure and function of neurons and have created great burden to the individual and the society. The actual cause of various neurodegenerative diseases remains a mystery in healthcare. Some of the commonly studied environmental factors causes for neurodegenerative diseases are protein

degradation, oxidative stress, inflammation, environmental factor, mitochondrial defects, familial history, and abnormal protein accumulation in neuron. However, ageing plays a very important role in neurodegenerative diseases. Exposure to aluminium causes neurodegenerative disorders [1]. In the earth's crust, aluminium is a widely distributed metallic element, and it acts as a neurotoxin. Aluminium contains high levels in diet led to increased risk of central nervous system and like Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and

**Comment [VR1]:** Required proper interpretation of histopathological data.

**Comment [VR2]:** Introduction required to write atleast 500-600 words with strong background analysis of study with previous published articles.

**Comment [VR3]:** The flow of writing is not continuous, needs to write first from neurodegenerative disease, epidemiological impact in India/ Asia/ world. Issue of NDD with the human health condition and outcome at neuronal cells. Next, impact of aluminium which causes NDD explain the seriousness of Al in the environment/ diet to human. Finally, the phytochemical protective role against the NDD. For each point of explanation requires proper citation. Now start explaining about the GS previous studies and your plan of conducting the study.

**Comment [VR4]:** Aluminium from the environment factors/ dietary level can explain will good impact. Requires to rewrite to get higher attention about the seriousness of aluminium like health, mental issues of aluminium, etc.....Swetha also required to speak about the BBB, ADME of aluminium from the human system.

Parkinsonism dementia complex [2]. It promotes aggregation of synthetic  $\beta$ -amyloid protein. It activates neurotoxicity in central nervous, skeletal, hematopoietic systems [3]. The extensive damage of nervous system causes learning and memory impairment in animals. Aluminium-containing chemicals are widely used in medicine, food additives, and cosmetics and are added to tap water in some areas as a flocculating agent during the water purification process, it is important to study factors that might increase the absorption of aluminium across the gastrointestinal barrier [4]. Therapeutic plants are utilized to treat psychological and neurodegenerative diseases. Different western medications being utilized in cognitive decline are taken from plants. Plant inferred alkaloids, for example, anticholinesterase have been utilized to treat AD.

The berries of *Vitis vinifera* L. ssp. *sativa* grapes have been of interest worldwide due to the nutritional properties of derivatives, such as peel and seed extracts [5]. For instance, grape seed extract (aqueous or alcoholic) has a high antioxidant potential; its beneficial effects include the modulation of antioxidant enzyme expression, protection against oxidative damage in cells, antiatherosclerotic and anti-inflammatory effects, and protection against some cancer types, in both humans and animal models [6]. Grape seed is a by-product of winemaking process [7], and its oil content is traditionally extracted using either an organic solvent or mechanical techniques [8]. Cold pressing is a method of oil extraction that involves no heat or chemical treatment and hence may retain more health beneficial components [9].

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Collection and Authentication:

The fresh whole fruit of black grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) was collected from Madhavaram, Chennai district of Tamil Nadu in the month of January 2022.

### Grape seed extraction using cold pressing method:

The fresh whole fruit of black grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) was collected and washed with running water. Seeds of the grapes were carefully removed using strainer/ hands, washed and dried for approximately 24 hours. Cold pressing is adopted to collect the extract from the dried seeds using pestle and mortar (~100 g of dried seeds) until ground as fine powder with dropwise addition of methanol. Pressing the extracts until the oil shows the visible separation from the grape seed powder.

Approximately after 16-18 hours, the cold pressed oil was separated and stored in closed glass bottles (~50 ml).

### 2.1 EXPERIMENTAL ANIMALS

The male Wistar Albino rats weighing 180-200g of around 2-3 months old were used for the study. All experimental protocols were approved by the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) and Institutional Animal Ethical Committee (IAEC).

#### IAEC Approval no:

01/321/PO/Re/S/01/CPSEA/dated 17/11/2021 valid up to 18/11/2021.

#### EXPERIMENT DESIGN:

On the first day of experiment the animals had been divided randomly into 5 groups of 4 animals each. Neurotoxicity is induced using Aluminium chloride (175mg/kg, p.o.) for the II, III, IV, V groups have been carried out from 29<sup>th</sup> January to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and GSO (3.7g/kg) treatment was carried out from 17<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Control animals were given (0.9% NaCl 5ml/kg, p.o.) by means of using oral gavage. The final dose was given 60 min prior to behavioural checking and on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, scarification of animal has been done for ex vivo studies.

Group I- Normal saline (0.9% NaCl 5mg/kg) p.o.

Group II- Aluminium chloride (175mg/kg) p.o.

Group III- Aluminium chloride (175mg/kg) p.o. + Donepezil HCl (1mg/kg) p.o.

Group IV- Aluminium chloride (175mg/kg) p.o. + 2ml Grape seed oil (3.7g/kg) p.o.

Group V- Aluminium chloride (175mg/kg) p.o. + 4ml Grape seed oil (3.7g/kg) p.o.

### 2.2 ASSESSMENTS

#### PASSIVE AVOIDANCE TEST: [10]

This test is used to assess short term memory. Pole climbing apparatus chamber is used for passive avoidance response where pole is replaced by a wooden platform fixed on electrified grid floor. When rats stepped off the platform, they receive a continuous foot shock from grid floor. The normal reaction of rat was to jump back to the wooden platform. After about 4-5 trials, the animals acquired the passive avoidance response and they refrained from stepping down. The criterion was reached when the animal remained on the platform for at least 60 s.

### 2.3 OPEN FIELD TEST: [11]

Exploratory behavior was evaluated in an open discipline paradigm. The open arena is made of plywood and accommodates of 40 x 50 x 60 cm dimension. The entire

**Comment [VR5]:** Short sentence required to merge and rewrite the sentence.

**Comment [VR9]:** Mention Animal husbandry details. And the treatment of Group III to V for AIC and drug, i.e., whether it was given together or separately given in specific time interval needs to explain.

**Comment [VR10]:** As the study is designed for 28 days, needs to take at least 6 animals per group to get proper statistical analysis- justify it.

**Comment [VR11]:** Mention the treatments in days only. And the GSO treatment also mention in days.

**Comment [VR6]:** This sentence is fully plagiarized from the parent article.

**Comment [VR12]:** Mention the volume used for the groups, justify the volume given to the treatment group was not uniform between group.

**Comment [VR7]:** The sentence fully plagiarized from the parent article "Grape Seed Oil Compounds: Biological and Chemical Actions for Health" required to rewrite.

**Comment [VR13]:** Mention the groups in tabulation. Requested to present in diagrammatic representation for the whole experimental design.

**Comment [VR14]:** Reference needs to mention inside the paragraph. Maintain uniformity for other methods also.

**Comment [VR8]:** This sentence can write like, "Grape seed collection and cold pressed extract preparation: The seeds obtained from fresh whole black grapes were purchased from Madhavaram fruit shop (...) and the voucher deposited in the corresponding author's laboratory, Department of Pharmacology, Dr. MGR....., Chennai, TN, India. ...."

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apparatus become painted black and divided into 16 squares with white strains at the floor. Each animal was located on the nook of the equipment and for next 5 mins they have been discovered for ambulation which includes line crossings and head dipping.

## 2.4 MEASUREMENT OF LOCOMOTOR

### ACTIVITY: [12]

The spontaneous locomotor activity of each rat was recorded individually for 10 min using actophotometer. The locomotor activity (horizontal activity) can be easily measured using an actophotometer which operates on photoelectric cells which are connected in circuit with a counter. When the beam of light falling on the photocell is cut off by the animal, a count is recorded.

### 2.5 ROTA-ROD TEST: [12]

The effect of aluminium as well as grape seed oil treatment on muscle performance was evaluated using Rota-rod (Techno) test. All the rats were given two initial training trials of 300 s, approximately 10 min apart, to maintain posture on the Rota-rod (3 cm in diameter and rotating at a constant 20 rev/min). After the initial training trials, a baseline trial of 120 s was conducted. The time each animal remained on the Rota-rod was recorded. The animals that did not fall off the Rota-rod were given a maximum score of 120 s.

## 2.6 ASSESSMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT AND NEUROTRANSMITTER:

The animals were anaesthetized using chloroform and sacrificed. The whole brain was carefully removed from the skull. For preparation of the homogenate, the fresh whole brain was weighed and transferred to a glass homogenizer and a 10% (w/v) tissue homogenate was prepared in 0.1M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4, stored at -2 to -8°C). The homogenate was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min, and the resultant cloudy supernatant liquid was used for antioxidant and neurotransmitter assessments.

## 2.7 HISTOPATHOLOGICAL STUDIES

The animals were anaesthetized using chloroform and sacrificed. The whole brain was carefully removed from the skull. The brain sample from each group was selected and stored in 10% buffered formalin solution and further embedded in paraffin with wax. The blocks were processed for sectioning; the sections were then stained with haematoxylin and eosin as nuclear and cytoplasmic stains, respectively to assess the

ameliorative effect of grape seed oil. Pathological changes, if any, were viewed under light microscope and recorded.

## 2.8 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The statistical analysis was carried out with the aid of one-way ANOVA followed through Dunnett's-t test. P values <0.05 (95%confidence restrict) was considered to be significant, by the use of software graph pad 9.

## 3. RESULTS

### PASSIVE AVOIDANCE TEST:

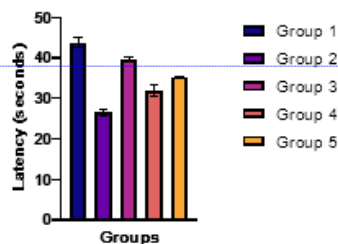
The Step-Down Latency (SDL) of Group II animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.0001$ ) when compared with Group I animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (2ml), the Step-Down Latency (SDL) of Group IV animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (4ml), the Step-Down Latency (SDL) of Group V animals shows significant increase ( $p < 0.05$ ) when compared with Group III animals. Results are given Table 1 and plotted in Graph Figure 1.

TABLE: 1 List of groups and their latency

S.NO	GROUPS	LATENCY (SECS)
1.	Group I	43.83±1.24
2.	Group II	26.50±0.76a****
3.	Group III	26.50±0.76a****
4.	Group IV	32.00±1.39b***
5.	Group V	35.33±1.30 b*

GRAPH Figure 1:

Effect of grape seed oil Passive Avoidance Test



### OPEN FIELD TEST:

The Group II animals shows significant decrease in head dipping and line crossing when compared with Group I animals ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The Group IV animals shows significant decrease in head dipping and line crossing behavior statistically when compared with Group III animals ( $p < 0.001$  and  $p < 0.01$ ).

**Comment [VR19]:** Morphological changes.

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**Comment [VR20]:** Details of version needs to mention like "(San Diego, California, USA)", etc.

**Comment [VR21]:** Results required scientific explanation about the data interpretation.

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**Comment [VR22]:** Needs to bring this sentence in to single sentence and required to explain about the donepezil group. And required scientific explanation about the data interpretation.

**Comment [VR23]:** Graph looks good but the statistical significance needs to mention in the bar graph. Moreover mentioning bar graph and table explains same, it is meaningless to mention both in this article. Also, required to mention figure legend for the figure.

**Comment [VR16]:** Is this temperature maintained for preparation of homogenization or for storage of homogenized sample. Mention the temperature of sample stored till analysis.

**Comment [VR24]:** In open field test, many other parameters also might observed, why only head dips and line crossing reported any importance behind this. Also, present the other parameters of open field study or give justification for observed only this two parameter in open field study. Additional, open field test needs to mention in single figure by combining both figures together.

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**Comment [VR18]:** Explain the method of slide preparation in detail or give reference for the method adopted from which article.

The Group V animals shows significant increase in head dipping and significant decrease in line crossing when compared with Group III animals ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p < 0.05$ ). Results are given in Table 2a, 2b and plotted in GraphFigure 2a and 2b.

TABLE 2a: Headdipping among groups

S.NO.	GROUPS	NO OF HEADDIPPING
1.	Group I	47.00±1.41
2.	Group II	25.80±1.74a****
3.	Group III	39.09±0.09
4.	Group IV	30.80±1.41b***
5.	Group V	43.67±0.08b*

GRAPHFIGURE-Figure 2a:

#### Effect of Grape seed oil in Head dipping

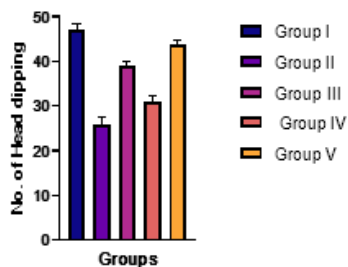
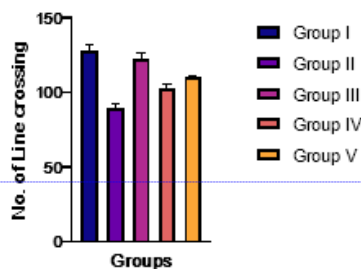


TABLE 2b: Linecrossing among groups

S.NO.	GROUPS	NO OF LINECROSSING
1.	Group I	128.34±3.42
2.	Group II	89.60±3.07a****
3.	Group III	122.25±4.49
4.	Group IV	102.80±2.85b**
5.	Group V	110.22±1.11b*

GRAPHFIGURE 2b:

#### Effect Of Grape seed oil in Line Crossing



Comment [VR25]: Both tables and graphs for all the parameter represents same. Then better to give only one of this will be suitable for manuscript.

#### LOCOMOTOR ACTIVITY:

The locomotor activity of Group II animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.0001$ ) when compared with Group I animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (2ml), the locomotion activity of Group IV animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (4ml), the locomotion activity of Group V animals shows significant increase ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. Results are given Table 3 and plotted in GraphFigure 3.

TABLE 3: Locomotion activity among groups

S.NO	GROUPS	LOCOMOTION ACTIVITY
1.	Group I	151.22±1.68
2.	Group II	76.82±1.85a****
3.	Group III	112.15±1.15
4.	Group IV	100.49±1.93b***
5.	Group V	125.69±1.18b***

GRAPHFIGURE 3:

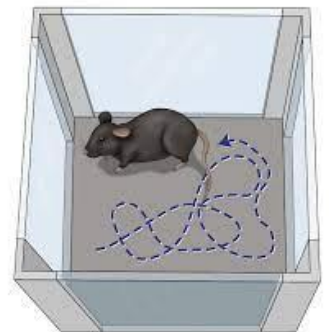
#### Effect of Grape seed oil in Actophotometer



#### ROTA ROD TEST:

The fall of time of Group II animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.0001$ ) when compared with Group I animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (2ml), the fall of time of Group IV animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III

Comment [VR26]: Diagrammatic representation of locomotor activity of rat in the arena for each group for clear representation will give good impact. Like this image.



Comment [VR27]: Requires to explain in more scientifically by correlating between groups.

animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (4ml), the fall of time of Group V animals shows significant increase ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. Results are given Table 4 and plotted in

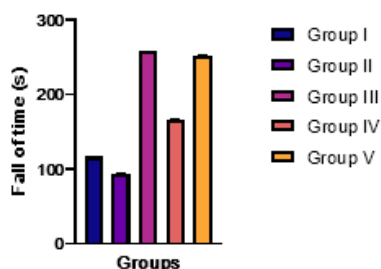
GraphFigure 4.

TABLE 4: Fall of time among groups

S.NO	GROUPS	FALL OF TIME (s)
1.	Group I	116.5±1.24
2.	Group II	93.8±0.76a****
3.	Group III	257.5±0.53
4.	Group IV	165.0±1.39b****
5.	Group V	251.2±1.30b**

GRAPHFIGURE 4:

Effect of Grape seed oil in Rota rod



#### ASSESSMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT

The SOD level of Group II animals shows significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ) decrease when compared with Group I animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (2ml), the SOD level of group IV animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (4ml), the SOD level of Group V animals shows significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase when compared with Group III animals. The results are given in Table 5 and plotted in GraphFigure 5.

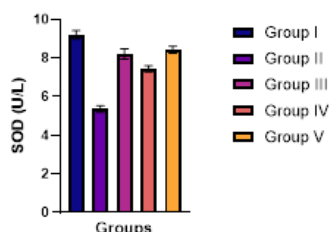
TABLE 5: SOD level among groups

S.NO	GROUPS	SOD (U/L)
1.	Group I	9.21±0.22

2.	Group II	5.36±0.17a****
3.	Group III	8.22±0.15
4.	Group IV	7.44±0.07b***
5.	Group V	8.59±0.03b*

GRAPHFIGURE 5:

Effect of Grape seed oil in SOD



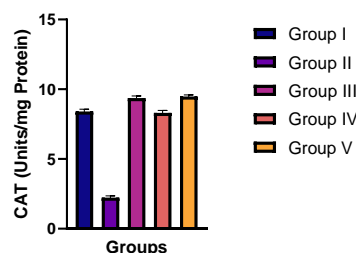
The CAT level of Group II animals shows significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ) decrease when compared with Group I animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (2ml), the CAT level of group IV animals shows significant decrease ( $p < 0.001$ ) when compared with Group III animals. On treatment with Grape seed oil (4ml), the CAT level of Group V animals shows significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase when compared with Group III animals. The results are given in Table 6 and plotted in GraphFigure 6.

TABLE: 6 CAT level among groups

S.NO	GROUPS	CAT (Units/mg Protein)
1.	Group I	8.40±0.17
2.	Group II	2.23±0.12a****
3.	Group III	9.37±0.15
4.	Group IV	8.31±0.17b***
5.	Group V	9.95±0.05b*

GRAPHFIGURE 6:

Effect of Grape seed oil in CAT



The GRD level of Group II animals shows significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ) decrease when

**Comment [VR28]:** Explain antioxidant result in a single paragraph with scientific interpretation and images requires to combined all together for SOD, CAT and GR in a single figure and include figure legend.



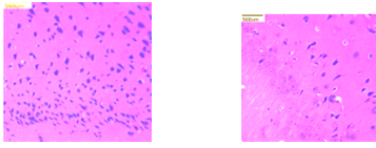


FIG 3: BRAIN HISTOPATHOLOGY OF STANDARD CONTROL GROUP

CORTEX                      HIPPOCAMPUS

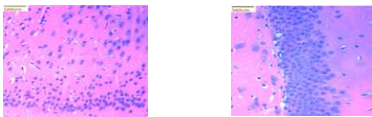


FIG 4: BRAIN HISTOPATHOLOGY OF GRAPE SEED OIL (2ml)

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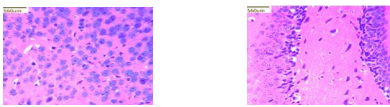
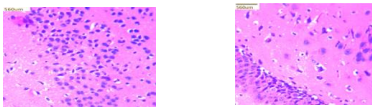


FIG 5: BRAIN HISTOPATHOLOGY OF GRAPE SEED OIL (4ml)

CORTEX                      HIPPOCAMPUS



## DISCUSSION:

- Aluminium chloride causes a class of neurodegenerative disorder. The incidence of neurodegenerative disorder increases with age. Damage of short-term memory is the characteristic feature. When the condition proceeds, extra cognitive capabilities are impaired, like ability to calculate, and use objects and equipment. Acetylcholine esterase inhibitors are the best marketers authorized by means of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of AD. All different retailers prescribed for the remedy of AD are used on an off-label foundation.
- As per preceding studies *grape seed oil* has superb antioxidant belongings,

consequently it's far believed to have actions on CNS problems and neurodegeneration illnesses.

- The current study has revealed the ameliorative effect of *grape seed oil* on Aluminium chloride induced neurotoxicity in rats. Aluminium chloride induced impairment of reminiscence became assessed by using the behavioural parameters like Passive avoidance task, open field test and locomotor activity using actophotometer, rota rod. It became discovered that remedy with *grape seed oil* shields cognitive deficits in Aluminium chloride induced neurotoxicity.
- Spatial studying inside the open area habituation was used to access mastering and memory. The decline in response to regular surroundings after repeated exposures to the acquainted surroundings is cited to spatial learning. Recurrent publicity produces a lower in the exploratory tasks, that's implicative of memory referring to a selected feature of that surroundings. Exploratory activities may be reduced on subsequent touch with open subject. In the end of the study the animals which are treated with *grape seed oil* indicated elevated spatial routine and sleep deprivation decreased spatial routine learning.
- Passive avoidance behavior is based on poor reinforcement became used to observe the level of memory. An electro-shock is given during training period for about 15 sec inside the Step-Down Latency (SDL) which is then recorded. SDL was determined by the time taken via the rat to step down from the wooden platform to grid ground with its whole paw on the grid floor. SDL is enhanced as an indication of long-term memory in which Aluminium chloride treated animals showed reduced SDL. Treatment with *grape seed oil* showed development in long time reminiscence as index of elevation in SDL.
- Muscular and locomotion activities using Actophotometer, and Rota rod were found to be significantly decreased after Al treatment. Therefore, high levels of Al not only interfere with the memory but also affect the motor functions and leads to decreased motor activities and grip strength. On treatment with *grape seed oil*, animals enhanced the locomotor activity.
- Antioxidants SOD, CAT, GRD and neurotransmitter AChE activity was evaluated where there is a significant decrease in antioxidant level and increased AChE after Al treatment. On treatment with

**Comment [VR31]:** Discussion need to rewrite fully and requested to refer other manuscript from AJRIMPS and discuss more with the other published result in comparison with the result obtained. Also, include the reference cited that to minimum 15-20 article from different journal required to discuss.

*Grape seed oil*, there was increase in antioxidant level and decrease in AChE activity.

- The histopathology studies of the brain shows that on treatment with *Grape seed oil*, there is a significant increase in the density of neuronal cells and hippocampal regions of brain while compared with neuronal loss in Aluminium chloride treated group.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The *Grape seed oil* possessed significant recovery in memory and locomotor activity processes but higher dose 4ml showed better activity than lower dose 2ml.

The current study reveals the ameliorative effect of *Grape seed oil* on Aluminium chloride induced neurotoxicity in rat. From the effects it can be concluded that *Grape seed oil* has extraordinary impact in behavioural & locomotor activity enhancement and oxidative stress. Further studies are required for the identification of molecular level activity and individual phytochemical constituent which could be responsible for neuroprotective action.

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**Comment [VR32]:** Conclude in more scientific way requested to refer other published articles from other journals too.

**Comment [VR33]:** Reference needs to include more recent, atleast within 5 years published articles.