

Original Research Article

Synthesis and evaluation of Anti-inflammatory activity of some Chalcone hydrazone derivatives

ABSTRACT

Aim: A new series of Chalcone hydrazone derivatives were prepared by reacting Chalcone with isonicotinyl and Nicotinyl hydrazide. Chalcone is used as a potent pharmacological agent with various biological activities such as antimicrobial, antiviral, antitumor, convulsion, anxiety, anti-inflammatory, and analgesic. In this background, we have synthesized a series of Chalcone hydrazone derivatives (**CL-1-CL-6**) and screened for their anti-inflammatory activity.

Methods: In this work, Schiff bases were prepared by treating Isonicotinyl and Nicotinyl hydrazide with respective parent chalcone. Six derivatives (**CL-1-CL-6**) were screened for anti-inflammatory activity by carrageenan-induced paw edema in rat.

Results: All the derivatives were given satisfactory reaction yields that representing the efficiency of the employed synthetic route. In carrageenan-induced paw edema model, CL-2 derivative showed most significant percentage of inhibition (53.23 %) as compared to reference standard Indomethacin.

Conclusion: This indicates the anti-inflammatory activity to these derivatives which might be due to inhibiting COX-2 activity. This anti-inflammatory activity was due to presence of electron donating groups like $-\text{CH}_3$ on ring A and electron withdrawing group like NO_2 on ring B at 4th position in isonicotinyl hydrazide derivative.

Keywords: *Chalcone, Inflammation, Hydrazide, Carrageenan, edema*

1. INTRODUCTION

Inflammation is an evolutionarily well preserved process characterized by the activation of immune and non-immune cells that protect the host from bacteria, viruses, toxins and infections by removing pathogens and promoting tissue repair and recovery. There are normally two types of inflammation: acute and chronic inflammation. Inflammatory diseases include a huge array of conditions that are primarily characterized by inflammation. Common examples include allergy, inflammatory bowel disease, coeliac disease, asthma, autoimmune diseases, glomerulonephritis, perfusion injury, hepatitis, and transplant rejection etc. In the world, the most significant cause of death is chronic inflammatory disease [1-3]. The World Health Organization (WHO) ranks chronic diseases as the greatest threat to human health and further anticipated to increase persistently [4, 5].

Steroidal and Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs known as NSAIDs are generally used in the management of acute and chronic pain of several etiologies, including cancer associated pain as well as arthritis. In the treatment of mild to moderate pain these drugs are used individually and in case of severe pain are used along with opioid analgesics or adjuvant analgesic drugs. For decades, physicians trusted on steroids to suppress immune response. Steroids are important anti-inflammatory agents, but reported to have severe adverse effects like enlargement of the heart, liver cancer, weight gain, etc. NSAIDs are non-selective cyclooxygenase enzymes (isoenzymes 1 and 2) inhibitors; pose a potentially serious risk with its acute and chronic use like gastrointestinal ulceration, hematologic toxicity, nephrotoxicity etc. The severity of NSAIDs adverse effect is experiencing more in the immuno-compromised patients suffering from life-threatening illness like cancer, HIV/AIDS etc. This is due to the occurrence of gastrointestinal bleeding and the masking of opportunistic infections related to the antipyretic effects of NSAIDs pose particular risk and might even cause fatal difficulties in patients who are thrombocytopenic, neutropenic, or else immuno-compromised. The ability of researchers to better understand the underlying cause of disease, identify group of patients, through accurate medicine, who will respond better to certain treatments, can potentially lead to new and innovative medicines[6].

Chalcones are present in high concentration in edible plants and precursors of flavonoids as well as isoflavonoids. Chalcones are intermediates in the auron synthesis of flavones. Chemically they are

open-chain flavonoids in which the two aromatic rings are joined by a three-carbon α , β -unsaturated carbonyl system (1,3-diphenyl-2-propen-1-one). In the 21st century, scientist remains interested in chemistry of chalcone due to the presence of replaceable hydrogens that permits synthesis of large number of analogues and a variety of promising pharmacological activities to be generated such as anti-oxidant[7],antimicrobial[8],antiprotozoal[9], anti-leishmanial[10,11], antimalarial[12,13],anti-HIV[14],anti-inflammatory[15,16],anticancer[17-19],anti-osteogenic[20]etc.

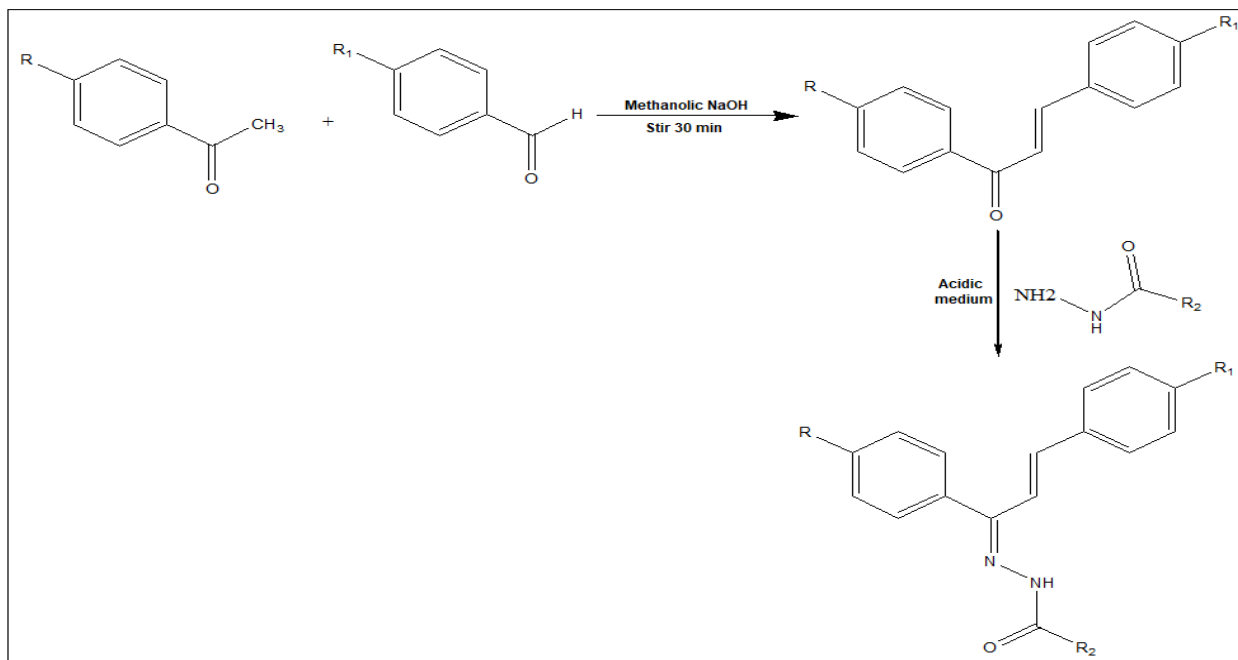
Although the exact mechanisms of action of chalcone hydrazone analogues remain unknown, a study in inflammation indicated that chalcone can inhibit the action of COX-2. In the present study, we aim to synthesize novel chalcone hydrazone derivatives that can exhibit anti-inflammatory activity.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1 Chemistry

Completion of reaction was checked by using thin- layer chromatography using Merck silica gel 60 F-254 plates had layer thickness about 0.25 mm and detection was performed in UV lamp and all solvents were distilled before use. All of the derivatives were characterized by IR, ¹H, and ¹³C NMR spectra recorded with Bruker WM- 300 in deuterated DMSO at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively using tetra methyl silane (TMS) as the internal standard. All chemical shifts are described on the δ scale.

2.2 Synthesis:



Scheme 1: Synthetic scheme for chalcone hydrazone derivatives

Step 1: A Methanolic solution of substituted benzophenone and substituted Benzaldehyde were prepared, then mix both the solution and stir on magnetic stirrer. In this solution add 5-6 drops of saturated solution of NaOH and continue the stirring for 30 min. A parent Chalcones were obtained by this procedure.

Step 2: A Methanolic solution of chalcone was prepared then add Methanolic solution of appropriate hydrazide, maintained the acidic medium using acetic acid and solution was refluxed for about 6hrs. Completion of reaction was checked by using thin layer chromatography.

2.3 Anti-inflammatory activity:

Anti-inflammatory potency was analyzed using carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats. The rats were divided into 09 groups consisting six in each group. The first control group was given vehicle DMSO per oral 1ml/100gm body weight whereas third group served as reference standard received Indomethacin 20 mg/kg orally. The test compounds Chalcone derivatives were administered to groups 4th to 9th at the dose of 40 mg/kg per oral. The vehicle used for the preparation of the test compound was DMSO. After thirty minutes of above treatment, carrageenan solution 0.1 ml (1% w/v carrageenan dissolved in normal saline) injected into subplantar region of rat's left hind paw to induce inflammation. The group 2nd received only carrageenan injection and served as induction control (Negative control) group.

Digital Plethysmometer was used to record the paw volume of control, reference standard and test compound treated groups and degree of paw edema measured at the interval of 1, 2, 3, 4 hours after carrageenan injection [21]. The percentage inhibition of edema was calculated using following formula.

$$\% \text{ inhibition of edema} = \frac{[(VT - V_0)_{\text{control}} - (VT - V_0)_{\text{Treatment}}]}{(VT - V_0)_{\text{control}}} \times 100$$

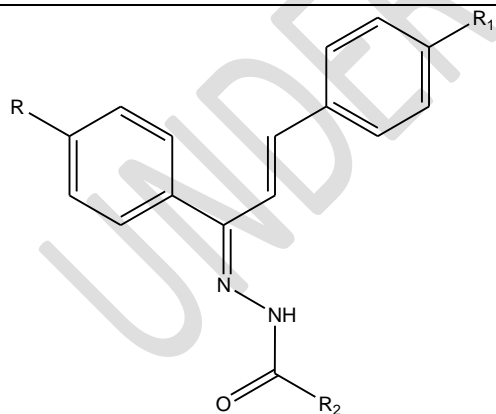
Where, V_0 : is paw volume at 0 hours and VT : is paw volume of respective time interval

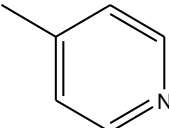
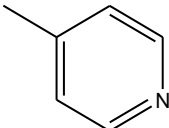
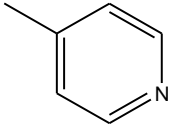
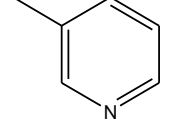
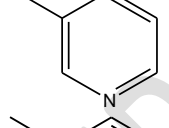
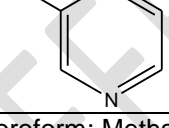
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Physicochemical Characterization of Chalcone hydrazone Derivatives

The table below shows the physicochemical characterization of the derivatives examined in this study (Table 1). All the derivatives were properly separated from the reaction mixture and given satisfactory reaction yields, that representing the efficiency of the employed synthetic route.

Table 1: Physicochemical characteristics of Chalcone hydrazone derivatives



Compound	R	R1	R2	Yield (%)	Rf*	Melting Point (°C)
CL-1	-CH3	-4Cl		78	0.69	169-171
CL-2	-CH3	-4NO2		82	0.75	155-157
CL-3	-Cl	-4isopropyl		81	0.62	162-164
CL-4	-CH3	-4Cl		82	0.72	150-152
CL-5	-CH3	-4NO2		85	0.78	147-149
CL-6	-Cl	-4isopropyl		84	0.80	161-163

Rf* Solvent system used for TLC was Chloroform: Methanol (90:10)

The Characterization of synthesized derivatives were carried out by using Infrared spectroscopy (IR), Proton NMR (¹H NMR) and Carbon NMR (¹³C NMR) for structure elucidation.

CL-1: IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3265(N-H), 1578 (C=N), 1524 (C=C aromatic), 1509 (C=C alkenyl), 745 (C-Cl).

NMR ¹H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.20,3H (s), 6.63,1H (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 6.97-7.24,3H (7.08 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.17 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.3, 8.0 Hz)), 7.34,2H(ddd, *J* = 0.6, 1.5, 8.0Hz), 7.41-7.56,4H (7.49 (ddd, *J* = 0.6, 1.3, 8.0 Hz), 7.52 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.0Hz)), 7.93,2H(ddd, *J* = 0.4, 2.7, 4.5Hz), 8.71,2H(ddd, *J* = 0.4, 1.9, 4.5Hz).

NMR ¹³C (100 MHz, DMSO*d*₆): 127.8, 128.8, 129.1, 129.2 (8C; Benzene CH) 130.2, 133.3, 133.5, 140.7 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 24.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH₃), 163(1C; amide), 122.8, 149.8 (4C; 4-Pyridine CH), 140.9 (1C; 4-Pyridine C).

CL-2: IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3260(N-H), 1570 (C=N), 1522 (C=C aromatic), 1512 (C=C alkenyl), 342 (N=O).

NMR 1H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.22,3H(s), 6.89,1H (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz), 7.18-7.36,3H (7.25 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.3, 8.0Hz), 7.29 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz)), 7.54'2H,(ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.7, 8.0Hz), 7.71, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.9, 8.7 Hz), 7.91, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.4, 2.6, 4.5Hz), 8.28, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.7Hz), 8.73, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.4, 1.9, 4.5Hz).

NMR 13C (100 MHz, DMSO*d*₆): 121.0, 127.3, 129.1, 129.2 (8C; Benzene CH) 130.2, 140.7, 141.3, 147.6 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 24.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH₃), 163(1C; amide), 122.8, 149.8 (4C; 4-Pyridine CH), 140.9 (1C; 4-Pyridine C).

CL-3IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3258(N-H), 1575 (C=N), 1525 (C=C aromatic),3082 (Csp² -H), 2938 (Csp³ -H), 1510 (C=C alkenyl),740 (C-Cl).

NMR 1H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 1.16,6H (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.86, 1H (sept, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 6.65,1H (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.06,1H (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.26, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.6, 8.0Hz), 7.32-7.49, 4H (7.41 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.6Hz), 7.45 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.9, 8.0Hz)), 7.61, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.5, 8.6Hz), 7.93,2H (ddd, *J* = 0.4, 2.7, 4.5Hz), 8.72, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.4, 1.9, 4.5Hz).

NMR 13C (100 MHz, DMSO*d*₆): 126.1, 129.0, 130.6 (8C; Benzene CH) 131.3, 132.4, 136.6, 147.8 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 23.4 (2C; Aliphatic CH₃), 36.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH), 163(1C; amide), 122.8, 149.8 (4C; 4-Pyridine CH), 140.9 (1C; 4-Pyridine C).

CL-4:IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3260(N-H), 1569 (C=N), 1525 (C=C aromatic), 1512 (C=C alkenyl), 749 (C-Cl).

NMR 1H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.21, 3H (s), 6.62, 1H (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 6.98-7.26,3H (7.08 (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.18 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.3, 8.0Hz)), 7.37, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.6, 1.5, 8.0 Hz), 7.41-7.65, 5H (7.49 (ddd, *J* = 0.6, 1.3, 8.0 Hz), 7.55 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.0Hz), 7.58 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 4.7, 8.1 Hz)), 8.06, 1H (ddd, *J* = 1.4, 1.9, 8.1 Hz), 8.57,1H (dt, *J* = 1.9, 4.7 Hz), 9.06,1H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.4, 1.9Hz).

NMR 13C (100 MHz, DMSO*d*₆): 127.8, 128.8, 129.1, 129.2 (8C; Benzene CH) 130.2, 133.3, 133.5, 140.7 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 24.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH₃), 163(1C; amide), 125.1, 138.0, 148.2, 153.7 (4C; 3-Pyridine CH), 130.7 (1C; 3-Pyridine C).

CL-5:IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3259(N-H), 1574 (C=N), 1520 (C=C aromatic), 1514 (C=C alkenyl), 348 (N=O).

NMR 1H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 2.25,3H (s), 6.88,1H(d, *J* = 17.5 Hz), 7.18-7.33,3H (7.23 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.3, 8.0 Hz), 7.29 (d, *J* = 17.5 Hz)), 7.47-7.78, 5H (7.51 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.7, 8.0Hz), 7.59 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 4.7, 8.1 Hz), 7.72 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.9, 8.7Hz)), 8.09,1H (ddd, *J* = 1.4, 1.9, 8.1 Hz), 8.31, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.7 Hz), 8.58, 1H (dt, *J* = 1.9, 4.7 Hz), 9.08,1H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.4, 1.9 Hz).

NMR ¹³C (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): 121.0, 127.3, 129.1, 129.2 (8C; Benzene CH) 130.2, 140.7, 141.3, 147.6 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 24.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH₃), 163(1C; amide), 125.1, 138.0,148.2, 153.7 (4C; 3-Pyridine CH), 130.7 (1C; 3-Pyridine C).

CL-6:IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3265(N-H), 1580 (C=N), 1522 (C=C aromatic),3084 (Csp² -H), 2932 (Csp³ -H), 1513 (C=C alkenyl),742 (C-Cl).

NMR ¹H 400 MHz (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 1.15, 6H (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 2.86,1H (sept, *J* = 7.0 Hz), 6.65,1H (d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.08,1H(d, *J* = 17.9 Hz), 7.28, 2H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.6, 8.0 Hz), 7.36-7.51, 4H (7.42 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.8, 8.6 Hz), 7.44 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.9, 8.0 Hz)), 7.51-7.67, 3H (7.58 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 4.7, 8.1Hz), 7.62 (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.5, 8.6 Hz)), 8.09, 1H (ddd, *J* = 1.4, 1.9, 8.1Hz), 8.57, 1H (dt, *J* = 1.9, 4.7Hz), 9.06, 1H (ddd, *J* = 0.5, 1.4, 1.9Hz).

NMR ¹³C (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆): 126.1, 129.0, 130.6 (8C; Benzene CH), 131.3, 132.4, 136.6, 147.8 (4C; Benzene-C), 155.6 (1C; Imine), 118.7, 139.0(2C; ethylene CH), 23.4 (2C; Aliphatic CH₃), 36.3 (1C; Aliphatic CH), 163(1C; amide), 125.1,138.0,148.2,153.7 (4C; 3-Pyridine CH), 130.7 (1C; 4-Pyridine C).

3.2 Anti-inflammatory activity

The effect of Chalcone hydrazide derivatives on carrageenan-induced paw edema in rats are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 1. Results showed the significant (*p* < 0.001) increase in paw edema in group-II when compared to vehicle treated control group indicating induction of acute inflammation from 1 hour upto 4 hours.

In present study, chalcone derivative CL-6 showed significant (*p* < 0.05) reduction in carrageenan induced paw edema compared to induction control group from 1 hr to 4 hr where the maximum percentage inhibition 40.30% was noted at 2 hr. The derivative CL-3& CL-1 exhibited significant and equipotent (*p* < 0.01) reduction in carrageenan induced paw edema compared to induction control group from 1 hr to 4 hr and the maximum percentage inhibition 45.62% and 49.42% respectively was recorded at 2 hrs. The carrageenan induced paw edema significantly reduced by chalcone derivative CL-2 treatment when compared to induction control group and reduction was highly significant (*p* < 0.001) and equipotent throughout from 1 hr to 4 hr and the maximum percentage inhibition 53.23% was noted at 2 hrs. The reference standard Indomethacin was most effective equipotent and significantly (*p* < 0.001) reduced

carrageenan induced paw edema compared to induction control group. The percentage inhibition was found 52.65%, 61.97%, 55.71% and 44.28% at 1 hr,2 hr,3 hr,4 hr respectively.

Table 2: Effect of Chalcone derivatives on carrageenan induced paw edema in rats

Gr. No.	Treatment (n=6)	Paw volume (ml) (Mean±SEM)			
		1 hour	2 hour	3 hour	4 hour
I	Control	0.77 ± 0.6	0.78 ± 0.8	0.77± 0.16	0.77 ± 0.22
II	Induction (Negative Control) Carrageenan (1 % w/v)-	2.26 ± 0.9 ^{###}	2.63 ± 1.31 ^{###}	2.10± 0.61 ^{###}	1.96 ± 0.52 ^{###}
III	Indomethacin - 20mg/kg, p.o	1.07± 0.18 ^{***}	1.00 ± 0.32 ^{***}	0.93 ± 0.42 ^{***}	1.09 ± 0.6 ^{***}
IV	CL-1- 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.43±0.08 ^{**}	1.33±0.42 ^{**}	1.13±0.60 ^{**}	1.60±0.82 ^{**}
V	CL-2 - 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.31±0.44 ^{***}	1.23±0.84 ^{***}	1.29±0.98 ^{***}	1.54±1.26 ^{***}
VI	CL-3- 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.57±0.62 ^{**}	1.43±0.50 ^{**}	1.42±1.20 ^{**}	1.82±1.42 ^{**}
VII	CL-4 – 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.84± 0.90	1.79±0.83	1.76±0.92	1.91±1.20
VIII	CL-5 - 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.65± 0.8	1.6 ±0.6	1.63±0.8	1.89±1.30
IX	CL-6 - 40 mg/kg, p.o.	1.60±0.42 [*]	1.57±0.32 [*]	1.55±0.84 [*]	1.85±1.24 [*]

Values are expressed as Mean ± SEM. # = p<0.05, ##= p<0.01, ### = p<0.001 when compared to control group

*= p<0.05, **=p<0.01, *** = p<0.001 when compared to induction (Negative) control group Statistical significance was analyzed by One-way ANOVA with Dennett's T-test.

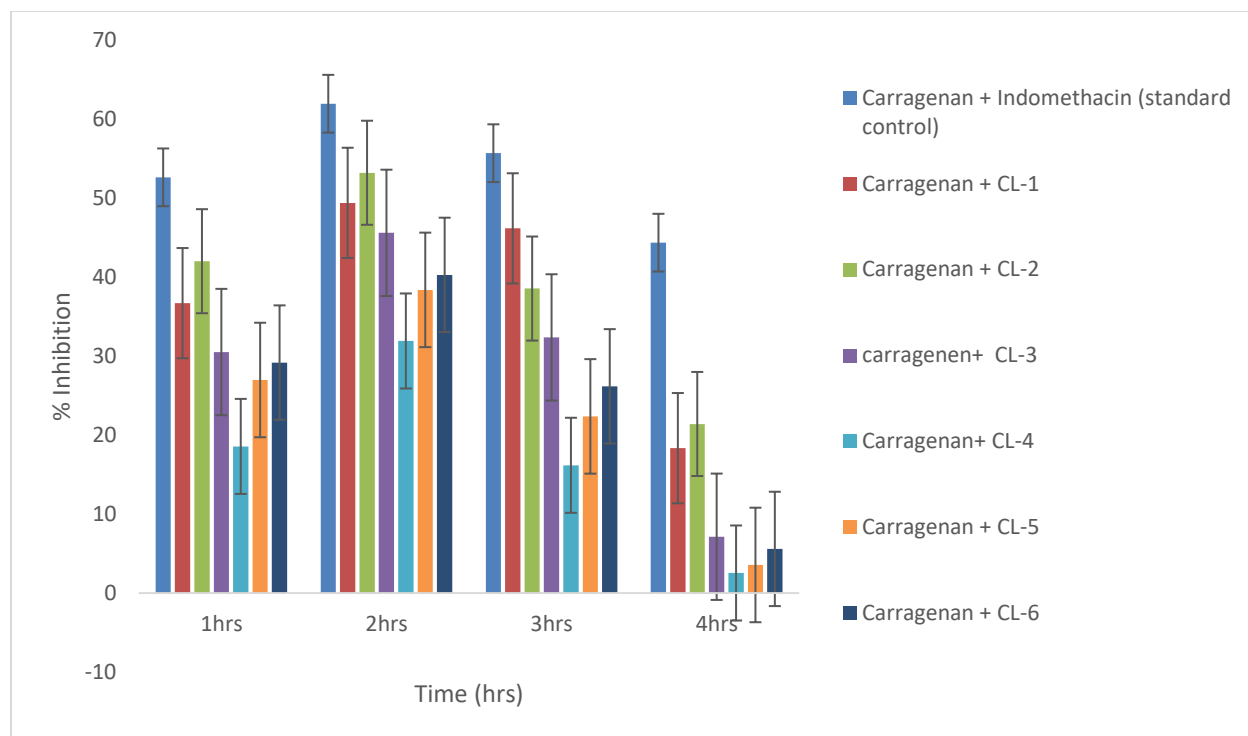


Figure 1: Effect of Chalcone derivatives on percentage inhibition of edema in carrageenan induced paw edema in rats

4. CONCLUSION

Inflammation is part of the body's defense mechanism. It is the process by which the immune system distinguishes and removes harmful stimuli and initiates the healing process. Current pharmacotherapy for inflammatory diseases reported limited therapeutic outcomes and are associated with many deleterious side effects. This indicates the need to develop new drugs for the treatment of inflammatory diseases with improved therapeutic outcome. Hence in the present study, preclinical trials for different chalcone hydrazide derivatives were carried out for anti-inflammatory activity in carrageenan-induced rat paw edema. The test compound CL-2 (40 mg/kg) showed significant ($***p < 0.05$) with 42.03 %, 53.23 %, 38.57%, 21.42% inhibition of edema respectively at the end of 1h, 2h, 3h, 4 h respectively as compared with reference drug indomethacin ($***p < 0.05$) with 52.65, 61.97, 55.71, 44.28 % inhibition of edema at the end of 1h, 2h, 3h, 4h respectively. From the result CL-4 compound (40 mg/kg) showed significant percentage of inhibition against carrageenan induced paw edema which is comparable with reference standard

indomethacin. This anti-inflammatory activity was due to presence of electron donating group like $-CH_3$ on ring A and electron withdrawing group like NO_2 on ring B at 4th position in isonicotinyl hydrazide derivative. On the basis of result, it can be concluded that chalcone hydrazide derivatives exhibited anti-inflammatory activity. All synthetic chalcone hydrazide derivatives may be considered as safer drugs for treating inflammatory conditions.

CONSENT

The present study did not involve Patients.

ETHICAL APPROVAL (WHERE EVER APPLICABLE)

This project was approved by the Animal Ethics Committee from Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Pharmacy, Akurdi, Pune (DYPCOP/IAEC/2021/08).

COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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