



The therapeutic and preventive effect of Milk Thistle and Moringa leaves in CCl₄ induced hepatotoxicity in rats

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ABSTRACT

The current study was conducted to study the preventive and therapeutic effect of milk thistle and moringa leaves powder on rats suffering from carbon tetrachloride- induced hepatotoxicity. Sixty rats were used for experiments, and the rats were divided into two groups, preventive and therapeutic. The rats were fed different proportions of milk thistle and moringa leaves powder (7.5 and 10%). The following analysis was performed: chemical composition, active ingredients, liver function, kidney function, lipid profile, oxidative stress enzymes for liver tissue and histopathological analysis of the liver. The results of the study were as follows: moringa contains a high percentage of total phenols and flavonoids compared with milk thistle contain, while milk thistle contains a higher percentage of antioxidants compared with moringa. Groups 6 and 12 recorded the best results in all tests under study, and a noticeable improvement was noted in liver tissue in the histopathological study. Therefore, the study recommends consuming moringa and including it in the daily regimen to improve liver function

Keywords: Milk Thistle, Moringa, liver injury, Biochemical analysis, Histopathology

Received: 31-12-2024

Accepted: 14-1-2025

Published: 12-2024

INTRODUCTION

Liver disease is any injury that affects the liver's capacity to operate. This general term includes all potential problems that lead to the liver's incapacity to perform its assigned duties **Guan and He, (2013)**. *Silybum marianum (L.)*, a member of the *Asteraceae/Compositaceae* family, is perhaps the oldest and most researched plant for liver disease treatment **Milić et al., (2013)**. Milk thistle seeds, primarily due to their active compound silymarin, are considered to have therapeutic effects mainly focused on protecting the liver from damage caused by toxins, acting as a potent antioxidant, and potentially aiding in liver regeneration by stimulating new cell growth; this makes

it a commonly used herbal remedy for various liver conditions like cirrhosis and hepatitis, while also showing potential benefits for managing blood sugar levels and alleviating symptoms of indigestion. The most important of these components are phenolic chemicals, flavonoids, tannins, and alkaloids. *Silybum marianum* (L.), often known as milk thistle (MT), is plant of the *Asteraceae* family that originated in the Mediterranean region **Bijak., (2017)**. Milk thistle is a medicinal plant with anti-oxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-fibrogenic, and hypolipidemic properties **Mohammadi et al., (2020)**.

Silymarin (SIL) is used extensively in European nations to prevent cirrhosis, jaundice, gallstones, and hepatitis, among other hepatobiliary issues. The flavanolignan *silymarin* (SIL) is isolated from the seeds and fruits of the *Silybum marianum*. plant **Choksi et al., (2000)**. Antioxidant, lipid-lowering, hepatoprotective, antihypertensive, anti-diabetic, anti-atherosclerotic, and anti-obesity properties have been demonstrated for milk thistle **Taj mohammadi et al., (2018)**.

Okwari et al. (2013) showed that *Moringa oleifera* (MO) is one of the most widely cultivated species in the genus *Moringa* and family *Moringaceae*. Almost every component of *Moringa oleifera* can be eaten as food, and extracts from all parts of the plant exhibit pharmacological qualities that are acknowledged by both the scientific community and common usage, making it one of the most beneficial trees in the world **Oliveira et al., (1999)**. Almost all of the parts of MO leaves, such as the root, bark, gum, leaf, fruit, flowers, seed, and seed oil, have been used for a variety of biological activities, such as liver disease, hepatic and renal function, thyroid hormone status regulation, antitumor and oxidative stress protection, inflammation treatment, liver protection against various hepatotoxic drugs and carbon tetrachloride, liver and kidney cholesterol reduction and anti-diabetic and hepatoprotective properties **Luka et al., (2013) and Ezejindu et al., (2013)**.

Moringa leaf powder has numerous pharmacological qualities, including hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer effects **Lina et al., (2023)**. Additionally, MO leaf extracts in methanol and chloroform demonstrated a strong defense against albino rats' liver damage caused by CCl₄. In addition to MO leaves, the plant's roots and flowers also have potent hepatoprotective properties. Quercetin, a well-known flavonoid found in moringa flowers, may be the cause of the plant's strong hepatoprotective effects **Selvakumar and Natarajan, (2008)**.

Moringa has cardiovascular, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antioxidant, anticancer, diuretic, antiurolithiatic, and antihelminthic properties **Fozia Farooq et al., (2012)**.

Numerous research projects are still underway to identify novel, side-effect-free medications for the treatment of liver ailments. Hepatotoxicity can be effectively and safely treated using natural treatments, primarily derived from traditional herbs. Plant-based extracts have also been studied for their antioxidant and hepato-protective properties against liver injury. One of the herbal plants with a broad range of therapeutic uses is *Moringa oleifera* **Yousef et al., (2010)**. Extracts from several sections of *Moringa oleifera* have been shown to have hepato-protective properties against liver injury in male rats in previous research **Sreelatha and Padma, (2010)**. Antipyretic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, antidiabetic, antihypertensive,

immunomodulatory, hepatoprotective, and diuretic As a result of active compounds in the bioactive components of *Moringa oleifera* **Elghandour et al., (2023)**.

This study was conducted to evaluate the potential advantage that can be obtained from using both milk thistle powder and moringa leaves as a therapeutic and preventive effect on rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials:

- Dried Milk Thistle powder and Moringa leaves powder were bought from National Research Center in Dokki, (Cairo, Egypt).
- Carbon tetrachloride, Paraffin oil, choline, vitamins, minerals, cellulose and casein were bought from El-Gomhoreya Company, Cairo, Egypt.
- Corn starch and oil were bought from a local market, Cairo, Egypt.
- Sixty albino male rats (*Sprague Dawley Strain*) weighing between 150-170g were obtained from Food Technology Research Institute, Giza.

Methods:

Chemical analysis

Chemical analysis of the Milk Thistle powder and Moringa leaves powder including moisture; fat, protein; ash and crude fiber were conducted in Food Technology Research Institute according to the method described by the **A.O.A.C., (2005)**. Carbohydrate value was calculated according to **FAO, (1982)** by as follows:

Soluble carbohydrates (%) = 100 – (moisture % + fat % + protein % + ash % + crude fiber %).

Total flavonoid content in Milk Thistle powder and Moringa leaves powder according to **John et al., (2014)**, Total phenolic and Antioxidant activity content in Milk Thistle powder and Moringa leaves powder were determined according to **Su & Chien (2007)**.

Biological Experiment

To reduce food loss, the diet was administered in non-scattering feed cups. The rats were given water through a glass tube that protruded through the cage wire. Basal diet was prepared from fine ingredients (100 g) according to **Reeves et al., (1993)** in the animal house of Agricultural Research Center in Ministry of Agriculture, Giza. Animal studies were approved by UResearch Animal Facility-Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Cairo University, (approval no. URAF-E-3-24).

The basal diet consisted of casein 12%, cellulose 5%, corn oil 10%, mineral mixture 4%, vitamin mixture 1%, choline chloride 0.20% and the remained amount is starch according to **AIN, (1993)** with (7.5, 10%) milk thistle powder and moringa leaves powder daily during the experimental period (6 weeks).

A total of sixty rats were housed in well-aerated cages under hygienic condition and fed on basal diet for one week for adaptation. After this week, rats were divided into twelve groups including both therapeutic and preventive groups (five rats each).

Group 1 was given a baseline diet and tap water for six weeks and will remain as the negative control group (therapeutic). 25 rats will inject with CCl₄ in paraffin oil (50% v/v 4 ml/kg) to induce acute damage in liver according to **Jayasekhar *et al.*, (1997)**. This group will keep as therapeutic groups and then it will divide into five groups as follows:

Group 2 will consider as control positive (therapeutic) and will feed on basal diet, (5 weeks)

Group 3 (therapeutic) will feed on basal diet + 7.5% Milk Thistle powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 4(therapeutic) will feed on basal diet + 10% Milk Thistle powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 5(therapeutic) will feed on basal diet + 7.5% Moringa powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 6(therapeutic) will feed on basal diet + 10% Moringa powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 7 will keep as negative control group (preventive) and will feed on basal diet and tap water for 6 weeks.

Group 8 will consider as control positive (preventive) and will feed on basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 9 (preventive) will feed on basal diet + 7.5% Milk Thistle powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 10(preventive) will feed on basal diet +10% Milk Thistle powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Group 11 (preventive) will feed on basal diet + 7.5% Moringa powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet (5 weeks)

Group 12(preventive) will feed on basal diet + 10% Moringa powder replacing equivalent amount from the basal diet. (5 weeks)

Groups 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will inject near the end of the experiment (in the last week of the experiment) with CCl₄ in paraffin oil (50% v/v 4 ml/kg) and will keep for five days after injection.

During the experimental period (6 weeks), each rat was weighed every week and feed consumption was recorded. The following formula was used to calculate the feed efficiency ratio (FER) and body weight gain in accordance with **Chapman *et al.*, (1959)**:

$$(BWG) = \frac{\text{Final Weight} - \text{Initial Weight}}{\text{Initial Weight}}$$

$$(FER) = \frac{\text{Daily body Weight gain(g)}}{\text{Feed intake (g/d)}} \times 100$$

Rats were slaughtered after fasting for the entire night at the conclusion of the experiment. Following that, blood was drawn and centrifuged. Serum was separated and stored at -20°C for biochemical analysis i.e. aspartate amino transferase (AST) and alanine amino transferase (ALT) according to **Reitman & Frankel, (1957)**, serum alkaline phosphates (ALP) according to **Belfield & Goldberg, (1971)**, serum total protein(T.P) according to **Gornall *et al.*, (1949)**, According to **Doumas *et al.* (1971)**, serum albumin (ALB) was measured by subtracting serum albumin from serum total

protein; **Young, (1996)** estimated serum total bilirubin (T.B.); **Fossati *et al.*, (1980)** estimated serum uric acid; **Marsch *et al.*, (1965)** estimated urea; and **Bartels & Bohmer (1971)** estimated creatinine. **NIHP (1987)** was used to calculate the total serum cholesterol. Additionally, the **Triuder, (1969)** method was used to assess the triglycerides in serum. The method described by **Friedewald *et al.*, (1972)** and **Grodon & Amer. (1977)** was used to measure the high-density lipoprotein (HDL). The very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) were determined according to the method of **Lee & Nieman., (1996)** as follows:

$$\text{VLDL (mg/dl)} = \text{Triglycerides}/5$$

$$\text{LDL (mg/dl)} = \text{Total cholesterol} - (\text{HDL} + \text{VLDL})$$

A spectrophotometer (model DU 4700) was used to estimate all the parameters in serum samples, and biodiagnostic kits were used for analysis. Superoxide dismutase (SOD) was analyzed using ELISA Kit (catalog NO.CSB-E08555r) and Malondialdehyde (MDA) was analyzed using ELISA Kit (catalog NO.MBS2636626),

Histopathological Examination

Liver was separated from each rat and examined histopathologically according to **Bancroft & Layton, (2012)**.

Statistical analysis

The mean \pm SD is used to express the results. According to **McClave & Benson (1991)**, one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to statistically examine the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical Composition of (Moringa & Milk Thistle) powder

Moringa & milk thistle powder were analyzed for chemical composition on the dry weight basis **Table (1)** showed that moisture, crude protein, fat content, ash, crude fiber and total carbohydrates were (6.422, 10.896, 6.535, 13.052, 8.41 and 54.685 %) on dry weight respectively of moringa and (3.630, 4.343, 6.060, 23.421, 30.66 and 31.886 %) on dry weight respectively of milk thistle **Halaby, *et al.*, (2015)** found that the powdered chemical components of MO leaves. The leaves powder had the highest levels of moisture, protein, ash, crude fiber, and fat (7.81, 26.31, 8.03, and 17.63%), respectively. **Giuberti *et al.*, (2021)** confirmed that, moringa leaf powder has the potential to be employed as a food additive because it contains 27.4% protein, 5.6% oil, and 23.7% dietary fiber. **Amin, *et al.*, (2019)** who reported that, dry milk thistle's chemical structure, Crude fiber 27.32 ± 1.69 , Protein 11.4 ± 1.24 , Fat 1.61 ± 1.69 , Carbohydrates 6.8 ± 0.89 , Moistures 19 ± 1.24 and Ash 33.87 ± 1.38 .

Table (1): Chemical Composition of (Moringa & Milk Thistle) powder

Parameters Samples name	Test results %					
	Moisture	Protein	Fat	Ash	Crude fiber	Carbohydrates
Moringa powder	6.422	10.896	6.535	13.052	8.41	54.685
Milk Thistle powder	3.630	4.343	6.060	23.421	30.66	31.886

Total antioxidants, total phenols and total flavonoids compounds of (Moringa & Milk Thistle) powder

The obtained results in **Table (2)** showed a marked significant increase in total antioxidants (87.13) DPPH and significant decrease in total antioxidants (63.59) DPPH in (MO & MT) powder (87.13) & (63.59) DPPH, respectively. Comparing total (phenols & flavonoids) powder with those parameters samples of (MO & MT) powder revealed a marked significant increase in total (phenols & flavonoids) powder (805.36) & (181.02) mg/100g as Gallic acid, respectively. The present result was in accordance with **Dharmendra Singh et al., (2014)** who showed that the findings indicate that the hepatoprotective and antioxidant properties of *M. oleifera* leaves may be linked to their ability to scavenge free radicals. This could be because the extract contains flavonoids and total phenolics, or because the purified compounds kaempferol, quercetin, and β -sitosterol were separated from the ethanol extract of *M. oleifera* leaves. In another study, confirmed that natural compounds called flavonoids have a number of therapeutic and medical uses. Because of their phenolic structures, several of them have antioxidant properties and prevent processes brought on by free radicals **Kidd and Head, (2005)**.

Table (2): Total antioxidants, total phenols and total flavonoids compounds of (Moringa & Milk Thistle) powder

Samples name	Parameters	Active ingredients		
		Total Antioxidants (DPPH)	Total phenols (mg/100g as galic acid)	Total Flavonoids (mg/100g as catachin)
Moringa powder		63.59 ^b ± 3.34	805.36 ^a ± 17.70	807.39 ^a ± 6.29
Milk Thistle powder		87.13 ^a ± 0.77	181.02 ^b ± 10.42	129.33 ^b ± 3.14
DSL		5.50	32.92	11.27

Effect of two levels of Moringa & milk thistle powder on nutritional parameters in male rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

The **table 3** clearly shows that therapeutic positive group(2) rats have non-significant in FI, BWG and FER compared with normal control (G1) rats and G(3 , 4 , 5 , 6) rats feeding on supplemented diet with (MT & MO) powder (7.5 , 10%). On the other hand, preventive positive group(G8) and preventive groups(9,10,11&12) feeding on supplemented diet with (MT&MO) powder (7.5 , 10%)rats had no significant in FI, BWG&FER when compared with negative control group(7). **Halaby, et al., (2015)** reported that in comparison to a positive control group, a diet fortified with 3 percent MO (leaves or roots) can lower blood cholesterol and other lipids, as well as the risks to liver and renal function. It can also increase feed intake and body weight gain. Additionally, consistency with earlier research Rats given the MO powder leaf increased their body weight in comparison to the control group, according to studies by **Wang et al., (2012) and Halaby et al., (2015)**. Given that moringa is a nutritious food, weight gain could be the result. **Dočkalová et al., (2018)** found when compared to the control group, the average daily weight gain of rats fed milk thistle mixtures rose, with the group that received the 20% addition of milk thistle gaining the most weight.

Table (3): Effect of two levels of (Moringa & milk thistle) powder on nutritional parameters in male rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

Parameters Groups		FI (g/d)	BWG (g)	FER (%)
Therapeutic	G ₁	17.5 ^b ±0.69	0.24 ^a ±0.07	5.05 ^a ±1.25
	G ₂	19.57 ^{ab} ±1.27	0.37 ^a ±0.06	7.38 ^a ±1.08
	G ₃	20.83 ^{ab} ±1.10	0.55 ^a ±0.07	10.27 ^a ±1.06
	G ₄	19.78 ^{ab} ±2.68	0.37 ^a ±0.25	7.09 ^a ±4.47
	G ₅	18.9 ^{ab} ±1.35	0.36 ^a ±0.19	7.15 ^a ±3.34
	G ₆	21.15 ^{ab} ±1.35	0.54 ^a ±0.22	9.97 ^a ±3.29
Preventive	G ₇	21.63 ^a ±0.80	0.48 ^a ±0.10	9.06 ^a ±1.43
	G ₈	18.45 ^{ab} ±0.85	0.21 ^a ±0.01	4.45 ^a ±0.12
	G ₉	19.22 ^{ab} ±1.11	0.28 ^a ±0.06	5.87 ^a ±1.05
	G ₁₀	20.08 ^{ab} ±0.76	0.36 ^a ±0.07	7.30 ^a ±1.16
	G ₁₁	18.92 ^{ab} ±0.67	0.28 ^a ±0.18	5.63 ^a ±3.27
	G ₁₂	18.98 ^{ab} ±1.21	0.26 ^a ±0.08	5.41 ^a ±1.44
LSD		2.13	0.23	3.86
<p>G₁: negative control group, G₂: control positive, G₃: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G₄: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G₅: 7.5% Moringa powder and G₆: 10% Moringa powder. G₇: negative control group, G₈: control positive, G₉: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G₁₀: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G₁₁: 7.5% Moringa powder and G₁₂: 10% Moringa powder.</p>				

Effect of two levels of (Moringa & milk thistle) powder on liver function in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

The results of liver function analysis are presented in **table (4)** T.D, D.B, ALT, AST, ALP and GGT analysis values decreased significantly in groups of rats that consumed different levels of milk thistle and moringa when compared with the positive control group (therapeutic/ preventive). The group with the lowest value was G6 and G12. Then the results of the other groups that fed on milk thistle and moringa differed in decrease. Regarding the values of T.B and ID.B the groups with the lowest decrease were G5, G4, G3, G11, G10, G2, G9 and G8. The ALT analysis values for the groups with the lowest decline were G4, G11, G10, G5, G3, G9, G2 and G8. The AST analysis values for the groups with the lowest decline were G11, G4, G5, G10, G3, G9, G8 and G2. The ALP analysis values for the groups with the lowest decline were G5, G4, G11, G10, G3, G9, G2 and G8. The GGT analysis values for the groups with the lowest decline were G4, G5, G10, G11, G3, G9, G2 and G8.

As for the D.B analysis values, the groups with the lowest decrease were groups 12 and 4, followed by group 5, 6, 10, 9, 11, 3, 2 and 8 when compared with the positive control group (therapeutic/ preventive). On the other hand, T.P and ALB levels recorded a significant increase in the groups that consumed different levels of milk thistle and moringa, and the highest values were G6 and G12 in those that consumed 10% of moringa powder. These results agree with **Ibrahim Salih et al., (2022)** who showed that treatment with *Moringa oleifera*, the liver enzymes and tissue returned to a normal state and showed non-significant ($P \leq 0.05$) differences, compared to the control group. According to the results, it can be concluded that *Moringa oleifera* has a great

potential to prevent and improve liver damage.

Additionally, **Elbakry, M. A. et al., (2019)** confirmed that treating the CCl₄ hepatonephrotoxicity *Moringa oleifera* significantly alleviated all altered biochemical and histological changes approaching the normal values. This protecting activity of *Moringa oleifera* against CCl₄ hepatonephrotoxicity may be ascribed to its high content of phenols and flavonoids, in addition to ascorbic acid and oleic acid.

Table (4): Effect of two levels of (Moringa & milk thistle) powder on liver function in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

Parameters Groups	T.B (mg/dl)	D.B(m g/dl)	ID.B (g/dl)	T.P(g/ dl)	ALB(g /dl)	G (g/dl)	A.G (Ratio)	ALT (U/L)	AST(U/ L)	ALP (U/L)	GGT(U/L)	
Therapeutic	G ₁	0.45 ^f ±0.06	0.13 ^c ±0.02	0.31 ^g ±0.04	7.6 ^a ±0.38	4.36 ^{ab} ±0.16	3.24 ^a ±0.54	1.38 ^a ±0.28	22.63 ^g ±8.66	46.31 ^{fg} ±9.76	158.48 ^f ±22.67	1.81 ^g ±0.26
	G ₂	1.03 ^b ±0.07	0.2 ^{ab} ±0.01	0.83 ^{bc} ±0.08	6.00 ^e ±0.14	3.37 ^f ±0.09	2.63 ^{ab} ±0.06	1.29 ^a ±0.03	127.28 ^a ±9.33	224.1 ^a ±27.27	466.06 ^a ±42.99	8.60 ^b ±0.55
	G ₃	0.85 ^c ±0.05	0.17 ^{abc} ±0.01	0.68 ^{cd} ±0.05	6.38 ^d ±0.14	3.59 ^e ±0.05	2.79 ^{ab} ±0.16	1.29 ^a ±0.08	95.90 ^{bc} ±6.13	152.30 ^b ±13.78	394.88 ^b ±7.24	7.58 ^{cd} ±0.24
	G ₄	0.73 ^{cd} ±0.08	0.14 ^c ±0.02	0.59 ^{de} ±0.07	6.77 ^{cd} ±0.12	3.83 ^d ±0.08	2.94 ^{ab} ±0.05	1.30 ^a ±0.02	70.8 ^{de} ±4.48	114.97 ^{cd} ±13.69	281.24 ^{cd} ±11.87	5.55 ^e ±0.7
	G ₅	0.67 ^{de} ±0.08	0.15 ^c ±0.03	0.52 ^{ef} ±0.11	6.71 ^{cd} ±0.19	3.93 ^{cd} ±0.08	2.78 ^{ab} ±0.24	1.42 ^a ±0.15	86.35 ^{cd} ±4.51	115.91 ^{cd} ±19.85	268.48 ^{cd} ±38.13	5.76 ^e ±0.37
	G ₆	0.57 ^{ef} ±0.07	0.15 ^c ±0.02	0.42 ^{fg} ±0.06	7.28 ^{ab} ±0.25	4.14 ^{bc} ±0.14	3.14 ^a ±0.36	1.33 ^a ±0.19	52.14 ^f ±9.34	65.18 ^{fg} ±9.24	210.16 ^{ef} ±20.48	2.72 ^g ±0.38
Preventive	G ₇	0.55 ^{ef} ±0.07	0.13 ^c ±0.02	0.42 ^{fg} ±0.08	7.50 ^a ±0.14	4.34 ^{ab} ±0.16	3.16 ^a ±0.25	1.38 ^a ±0.16	25.86 ^g ±8.09	37.23 ^g ±8.46	172.33 ^f ±8.96	2.06 ^g ±0.55
	G ₈	1.28 ^a ±0.03	0.21 ^a ±0.03	1.06 ^a ±0.05	5.33 ^f ±0.31	3.09 ^g ±0.12	2.24 ^b ±0.42	1.42 ^a ±0.32	129.58 ^a ±8.30	212.10 ^a ±17.51	485.76 ^a ±39.96	9.58 ^a ±0.62
	G ₉	1.04 ^b ±0.06	0.17 ^{abc} ±0.01	0.87 ^b ±0.08	5.87 ^e ±0.12	3.63 ^e ±0.09	2.24 ^b ±0.18	1.63 ^a ±0.16	104.29 ^b ±7.90	165.53 ^b ±8.49	403.21 ^b ±18.82	8.32 ^{bc} ±0.56
	G ₁₀	0.86 ^c ±0.04	0.16 ^{bc} ±0.03	0.7 ^{cd} ±0.06	6.73 ^{cd} ±0.15	3.95 ^{cd} ±0.07	2.78 ^{ab} ±0.16	1.42 ^a ±0.09	81.25 ^d ±3.7	137.44 ^{bc} ±11.67	327.37 ^c ±18.41	6.84 ^d ±0.24
	G ₁₁	0.86 ^c ±0.08	0.17 ^{abc} ±0.01	0.69 ^{cd} ±0.07	6.74 ^{cd} ±0.08	3.97 ^{cd} ±0.13	2.77 ^{ab} ±0.21	1.44 ^a ±0.16	76.49 ^d ±5.87	94.29 ^{de} ±8.34	324.37 ^c ±27.09	6.87 ^d ±0.39
	G ₁₂	0.62 ^{de} ±0.04	0.12 ^c ±0.01	0.5 ^{ef} ±0.03	7.06 ^{bc} ±0.13	4.46 ^{ab} ±0.08	2.61 ^{ab} ±0.11	1.71 ^a ±0.08	61.49 ^{ef} ±5.01	74.58 ^{ef} ±7.25	227.67 ^{de} ±29.88	4.07 ^f ±0.25
LSD	0.10	0.03	0.11	0.33	0.18	0.45	0.28	11.89	23.85	44.65	0.76	
T.B: total bilirubin - D.B: direct bilirubin – ID.B: indirect bilirubin – T.P: total protein – ALB: albumin – G: globulin – A.G: albumin. globulin - ALT: alanine transaminase test – AST: aspartate transaminase test – ALP: alkaline phosphatase – GGT: gamma-glutamyl transferase												
G ₁ : negative control group, G ₂ : control positive, G ₃ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₄ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₅ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₆ : 10% Moringa powder. G ₇ : negative control group, G ₈ : control positive, G ₉ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₀ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₁ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₁₂ : 10% Moringa powder.												

Effect of two levels of (Moringa & milk thistle) powder on antioxidant activities of tissues in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

The levels of both SOD and MDA antioxidant activities of tissues of hepatotoxic rats are presented in table (5). SOD value of the therapeutic control negative group and preventive control negative group were 233.73 and 209.21 U/mg respectively. While the therapeutic control positive and preventive control positive were 19.98 and 34.51 U/mg respectively. On the other hand, the SOD value of the rats groups that fed on different levels of milk thistle and moringa leaves recorded significantly increased. The highest value of SOD was G₁₂ and G₆ followed by G₄, G₁₀, G₁₁, G₅, G₃ and G₉. MDA value of the therapeutic control negative group and preventive control negative group were 0.40 and 0.89 nmol/mg respectively. While the therapeutic control positive

and preventive control positive were 16.99 and 18.65 nmol/mg respectively. Whereas, the MDA value of the rats groups that fed on different levels of milk thistle and moringa leaves recorded significantly decreased. The lowest value of SOD was G6 and G12 followed by G4, G10, G11, G5, G3 and G9.

These results agree with **Abdelazem, H., (2019)** who showed that moringa oleifera improved the activity of the enzymes (SOD, CAT, GPx and GST) associated with a decrease in the activity of MDA. Additionally, he demonstrated that moringa oleifera improved the antioxidant enzymes and the oxidative stress in rats. Similar results were obtained by **Ghaffari, A. R et al., (2011)** who showed that Milk thistle stabilizes glutathione peroxidase and superoxide dismutase by raising glutathione levels.

Table (5): Effect of two levels of (Moringa&milk thistle) powder on antioxidant activities of tissues in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

Parameters Groups		SOD (U/mg)	MDA (nmol/mg)
Therapeutic	G ₁	233.73 ^a ± 9.87	0.40 ^e ± 0.05
	G ₂	19.98 ^f ± 6.90	16.99 ^a ± 1.66
	G ₃	76.11 ^e ± 11.88	10.37 ^b ± 1.35
	G ₄	127.63 ^d ± 7.57	4.48 ^d ± 0.67
	G ₅	106.33 ^d ± 13.26	7.1 ^c ± 0.45
	G ₆	156.41 ^c ± 9.67	1.88 ^e ± 0.53
Preventive	G ₇	209.21 ^b ± 27.20	0.89 ^e ± 0.12
	G ₈	34.51 ^f ± 8.21	18.65 ^a ± 2.21
	G ₉	75.19 ^e ± 8.67	10.92 ^b ± 1.46
	G ₁₀	125.94 ^d ± 19.09	6.46 ^c ± 1.35
	G ₁₁	109.18 ^d ± 12.43	7.12 ^c ± 1.07
	G ₁₂	164.25 ^c ± 13.61	2.78 ^{de} ± 0.62
LSD		22.81	1.94
SOD: superoxide dismutase – MDA: malodialdehyde			
G ₁ : negative control group, G ₂ : control positive, G ₃ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₄ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₅ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₆ : 10% Moringa powder.			
G ₇ : negative control group, G ₈ : control positive, G ₉ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₀ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₁ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₁₂ : 10% Moringa powder.			

Effect of two levels of (Moringa & milk thistle) powder on serum kidney in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

Table(6) showed that untreated therapeutic, preventive rats(G2, G8) have significant increase in serum levels of creatinine, urea and uric acid compared with those of normal control therapeutic, preventive rats(G1,G7). In contrast, rats feeding on supplemented diet with (MT 7.5 , 10% & MO 7.5 , 10%) therapeutic , preventive groups had significantly decreased serum levels of creatinine, urea & uric acid comparing with those of positive control groups (untreated, therapeutic & preventive) G (2,8) and significant decrease in serum (Cr) and (UA) preventive (G12),which nearly returned toward the normal levels preventive (G7). The findings are consistent with

those of **Nouri and Heidarian, (2019)**, who found that milk thistle herbs caused rats' serum uric acid levels to gradually drop in all treated groups. Additionally, **Amin et al. (2019)** found that, in comparison to the control positive group, creatinine, serum urea, and uric acid significantly decreased in all acute renal failure groups administered with varying concentrations of dried milk thistle (20% and 40%). Affirmed by **Halaby et al., (2015)** suggest that a 3% high concentration of MO-fortified food, either in the form of roots or leaves was safe and enhances renal function. Findings indicated that the kind and concentration of MO in either the roots or the leaves caused a progressive decrease in creatinine levels, the ratios reached to 1.06 and 1.19 for supplementation diet with roots or leaves powder at 1.5%, while the ratios reached to 0.72 and 0.70 compared with positive control group 1.60. According to our findings, MO at high concentrations enhanced nutritional value and had the greatest impact on kidney function **Buraimoh, (2011)**. Our results agree with **Dharmendra Singh et al., (2014)** stated that *M. oleifera* leaf extract was found to significantly ($p \leq 0.001$) lower serum levels of SGOT, SGPT, GGT, LDH, ALP, ACP, and total bilirubin in CCl₄-induced rats, while also significantly increasing total protein and albumin at all three dose levels (Group III–V) in comparison to CCl₄-treated Group II. The most effective dose level of *M. oleifera* was 400 mg/kg. Variations in rats' serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity following different administrations of *M. oleifera* leaf extract. Also **Amin, A. F. et al., (2019)** confirmed it may be beneficial to include dried milk thistle in the diet to counteract the negative effects of glycerol or CCl₄ on kidney, liver, and lipid profiles. **Mayer et al., (2005)** discovered that the group that took milk thistle MT extract had lower mean BUN and creatinine levels.

Table (6): Effect of two levels of (Moringa&milk thistle) powder on serum kidney in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

Parameters Groups		Creatinine (mg/dl)	Urea (mg/dl)	Uric Acid (mg/dl)
Therapeutic	G ₁	0.55 ^e ±0.07	21.85 ^d ±2.50	2.95 ^{de} ±0.10
	G ₂	1.17 ^a ±0.05	45.92 ^a ±2.48	5.02 ^a ±0.18
	G ₃	0.99 ^b ±0.06	38.66 ^b ±1.62	4.34 ^b ±0.16
	G ₄	0.8 ^{cd} ±0.05	30.79 ^c ±1.31	3.73 ^c ±0.15
	G ₅	0.68 ^{de} ±0.09	31.44 ^c ±2.59	3.80 ^c ±0.24
	G ₆	0.57 ^e ±0.09	22.57 ^d ±2.84	3.05 ^{de} ±0.21
Preventive	G ₇	0.55 ^e ±0.07	18.60 ^d ±1.04	2.72 ^e ±0.44
	G ₈	0.95 ^{bc} ±0.10	43.31 ^{ab} ±3.34	4.59 ^b ±0.24
	G ₉	0.83 ^{cd} ±0.06	38.78 ^b ±1.79	3.87 ^c ±0.13
	G ₁₀	0.85 ^{bc} ±0.08	30.82 ^c ±1.32	3.29 ^d ±0.22
	G ₁₁	0.69 ^{de} ±0.06	40.78 ^b ±2.32	3.95 ^c ±0.30
	G ₁₂	0.55 ^e ±0.06	28.54 ^c ±2.75	3.1 ^{de} ± 0.14
LSD		0.12	3.82	0.38
<p>G₁: negative control group, G₂: control positive, G₃: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G₄: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G₅: 7.5% Moringa powder and G₆: 10% Moringa powder.</p> <p>G₇: negative control group, G₈: control positive, G₉: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G₁₀: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G₁₁: 7.5% Moringa powder and G₁₂: 10% Moringa powder.</p>				

Effect of two levels of (Moringa & mil thistle) powder on lipid profile in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

The results of lipid profile analysis are shown in table (7). The values of T.C, T.G, LDL and VLDL were significantly decreased in the rats that consumed different levels of milk thistle and moringa when compared with the positive control group (therapeutic/ preventive). The lowest declines were recorded in groups 6 and 12, which were fed 10% moringa powder. After that, the results varied in the decrease; as the T.C values for the lower groups were G5, G4, G9, G11, G10, G3, G8 and G2. The groups which had the lowest T.G values and VLDL were G9, G10, G5, G11, G3, G4, G8 and G2. The groups which had the lowest LDL values were G5, G4, G9, G11, G8, G10, G3 and G2. While HDL levels increased significantly in the groups that fed on different levels of milk thistle and moringa when compared with the positive control group (therapeutic/ preventive). The groups with the highest increase were group G6 and G12, which were fed 10% moringa powder. These results are accordance with data by **Chen et al., (2020)** who reported that TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, and T.G levels were reduced by extract from the leaves of *Moringa oleifera*.

Additionally, **Dubey et al., (2013)** confirmed that the *Moringa oleifera* plant significantly decreased cholesterol levels and atherosclerotic formation to approximately 50% and 86%, respectively. They also demonstrated that rats' cholesterol levels decreased when they were given powdered *Moringa oleifera* leaves orally. It was determined that *Moringa oleifera* leaves have definite hypocholesteremic action and that using them for this purpose has a sound pharmacological foundation.

Table (7): Effect of two levels of (Moringa&milk thistle) powder on lipid profile in both therapeutic & preventive groups of rats suffering from hepatotoxicity

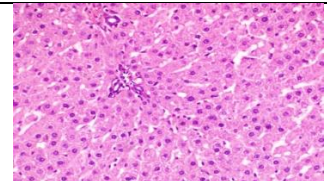
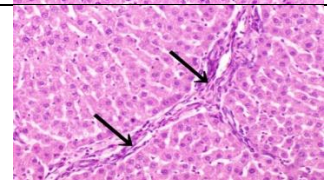
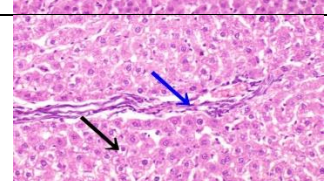
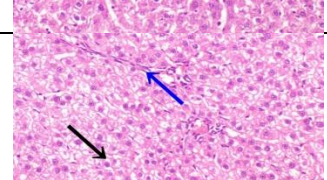
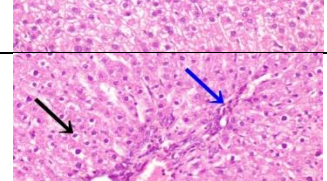
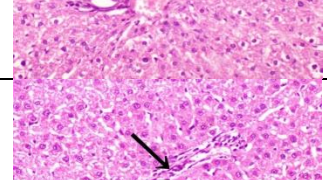
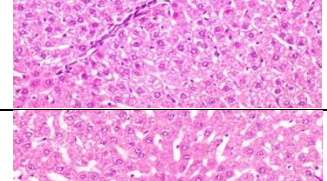
Parameters Groups	T.C (mg/dl)	T.G (mg/dl)	HDL (mg/dl)	LDL (mg/dl)	VLDL (mg/dl)	
Therapeutic	G ₁	103.2 ^f ±13.45	91.86 ^d ±11.58	48.41 ^{abc} ±1.63	36.42 ^f ±10.41	18.37 ^d ±2.32
	G ₂	233.35 ^a ±10.70	163.02 ^a ±8.20	43.24 ^{bc} ±2.52	157.5 ^a ±10.27	32.60 ^a ±1.64
	G ₃	193.45 ^b ±7.65	137.79 ^b ±3.11	46.75 ^{abc} ±4.75	119.14 ^b ±8.18	27.55 ^b ±0.62
	G ₄	165.52 ^{cd} ±7.02	138.71 ^b ±10.38	45.70 ^{abc} ±5.07	92.08 ^{bc} ±11.96	27.74 ^b ±2.07
	G ₅	153.11 ^d ±9.13	121.02 ^{bc} ±12.73	48.88 ^{abc} ±1.52	80.03 ^{cd} ±12.44	24.20 ^{bc} ±2.55
	G ₆	126.15 ^e ±9.67	95.64 ^{cd} ±6.68	50.77 ^a ±2.37	56.25 ^{ef} ±9.21	19.13 ^{cd} ±1.33
Preventive	G ₇	95.69 ^f ±6.28	72.97 ^d ±3.41	45.91 ^{abc} ±2.47	35.19 ^f ±8.86	14.59 ^d ±0.68
	G ₈	194.54 ^b ±7.85	143.11 ^b ±19.37	49.28 ^{abc} ±1.33	116.64 ^b ±6.28	28.62 ^b ±3.88
	G ₉	167.21 ^{cd} ±9.09	118.42 ^{bc} ±7.81	44.83 ^{abc} ±0.80	98.70 ^{bc} ±6.82	23.68 ^{bc} ±1.56
	G ₁₀	183.27 ^{bc} ±16.40	119.64 ^{bc} ±18.44	42.10 ^c ±2.05	117.25 ^b ±15.21	23.92 ^{bc} ±3.69
	G ₁₁	176.66 ^{bcd} ±11.68	136.71 ^b ±7.39	49.98 ^{ab} ±1.15	99.34 ^{bc} ±13.38	27.34 ^b ±1.48
	G ₁₂	128.0 ^e ±11.80	97.05 ^{cd} ±8.28	46.53 ^{abc} ±0.77	62.06 ^{de} ±16.87	19.41 ^{cd} ±1.66
LSD	18.75	18.44	4.35	18.98	3.69	
T.C: total cholesterol – T.G: triglycerides – HDL: high density lipoprotein – LDL: low density lipoprotein – VLDL: very low density lipoprotein						
G ₁ : negative control group, G ₂ : control positive, G ₃ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₄ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₅ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₆ : 10% Moringa powder.						
G ₇ : negative control group, G ₈ : control positive, G ₉ : 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₀ : 10% Milk Thistle powder, G ₁₁ : 7.5% Moringa powder and G ₁₂ : 10% Moringa powder.						

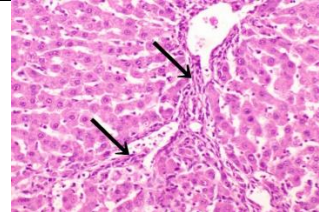
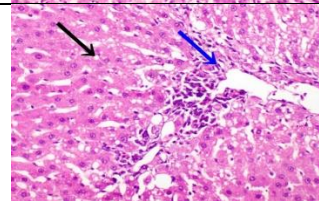
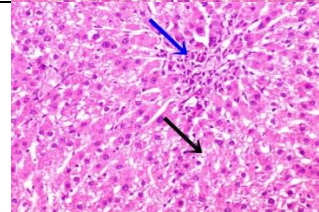
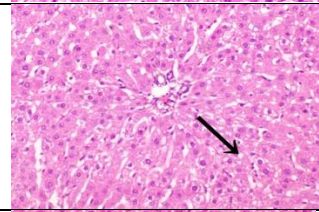
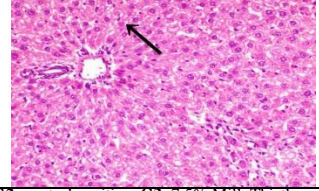
Histopathological Examinations

Histopathological examination of liver:

Light microscopy examination of liver sections of rats from G₁ (normal control) (therapeutic) revealed the normal histoarchitecture of hepatic parenchyma (Figure 1). In adverse, liver of rats from G₂(untreated group) (therapeutic) exhibited histopathological lesions characterized by coagulative necrosis of centrilobular hepatocytes, hepatocellular apoptosis, massive fibroblasts proliferation in the portal triad and extend to encircle the hepatocytes (Figure 2) as well as portal infiltration with inflammatory cells. Meanwhile, hepatic sections of rats from G₃(7.5%MT powder) (therapeutic) showed mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration and moderate strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (Figure 3). Furthermore, liver of rats from G₄(10%MT powder) (therapeutic) demonstrated mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration and fine strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (Figure 4). Moreover, liver of rats from G₅(7.5%MO powder) (therapeutic) revealed mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration and moderate strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (Figure 5) as well as oval cells proliferation. On the other hand, liver sections from G₆(10%MO powder) (therapeutic) showed Kupffer cells activation, mild vacuolization of some hepatocytes and fine strands of fibroblasts in between the hepatocytes (Figure 6). Otherwise, liver of rats from G₇(normal control) (protective) exhibited normal histoarchitecture of hepatic tissue (Figure 7). In contrariwise, liver of rats from G₈(untreated group) (protective) showed severe changes as coagulative necrosis of centrilobular hepatocytes, hepatocellular apoptosis associated with inflammatory cells infiltration, massive fibroblasts proliferation in the portal triad and extend to encircle the hepatocytes (Figure 8) as well as portal infiltration with inflammatory cells. However, liver of rats from G₉ (7.5%MT powder) (protective) showed vacuolar degeneration of hepatocytes, hepatocellular apoptosis associated with fine strands of fibroblasts proliferation (Figure 9). Furthermore, sections from G₁₀(10%MT powder) (protective) described slight vacuolar degeneration of some hepatocytes and hepatocellular apoptosis (Figure 10). Moreover, liver of rats from groups (11 & 12) (7.5% & 10% MO powder) (protective) exhibited normal portal area, slight Kupffer cells proliferation and slight vacuolar degeneration of some hepatocytes (Figures 11 & 12).Our results agree with **Dharmendra Singh *et al.*, (2014)**who cleared that the histomorphological image of liver sections treated with 400 mg/kg of *M. oleifera* extract and CCl₄-induction revealed a lobular pattern that was largely normal and free of degenerative alterations. Also **Dočkalová *et al.*, 2018)** said that the hepatoprotective activity of silymarin may have contributed to the reduced incidence of liver steatosis in the animals fed pressed milk thistle components. The results from the histological perspective showed that the 10% group was the most suitable amount of milk thistle pressed components. **Al-dabbagh *et al.*, (2022)**reported that in addition to being a preventative step against the risk of diabetes and its complications, milk thistle is efficient in repairing damaged hepatic cells. Another study by **Janice Post-White *et al.*, (2007)**revealed that Silymarin is a strong antioxidant that promotes detoxification pathways, repairs liver tissue, and stabilizes cell membranes. Also reported that a natural supplement called milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*) is used to treat biliary and liver conditions. The main ingredient in silymarin, a blend of flavonoid complexes, shields kidney and liver cells from the harmful effects of medications like chemotherapy. The restoration of these markers to

nearly normal levels indicates that the administration of silymarin (SIL) for 30 days effectively reduced these DEN-induced abnormalities in the liver tissue. This might be because SIL has a protective impact on the hepatocellular membranes, preserving their integrity and halting more cellular damage. These results are consistent with those of **El-Samaligy *et al.*, (2006)**, who found that silymarin protected rats from CCl4-induced hepatotoxicity in a comparable way.

Groups		Organ	Photomicrograph of liver	Discussion
Therapeutic	G1			Fig (1): Showing the normal histoarchitecture of hepatic parenchyma (H & E X 200).
	G2			Fig (2): Showing massive fibroblasts proliferation in the portal triad and extend to encircle the hepatocytes (black arrows) (H & E X 200).
	G3			Fig (3): Showing mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration (black arrow) and moderate strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (blue arrows) (H & E X 200).
	G4			Fig (4): Showing mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration (black arrow) and fine strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (blue arrows) (H & E X 200).
	G5			Fig (5): Showing mild hepatocellular vacuolar degeneration (black arrow) and moderate strands of fibroblasts in the portal triad (blue arrows) (H & E X 200).
	G6			Fig (6): Showing fine strands of fibroblasts in between the hepatocytes (black arrows) (H & E X 200).
Preventive	G7			Fig (7): Showing the normal histoarchitecture of hepatic parenchyma (H & E X 200).

G8		<p>Fig (8): Showing massive fibroblasts proliferation in the portal triad and extend to encircle the hepatocytes (black arrows) (H & E X 200).</p>
G9		<p>Fig (9): Showing vacuolar degeneration of hepatocytes (black arrow), hepatocellular apoptosis associated with fine strands of fibroblasts proliferation (blue arrow) (H & E X 200).</p>
G10		<p>Fig (10): Showing slight vacuolar degeneration of some hepatocytes (black arrow) and hepatocellular apoptosis (blue arrow) (H & E X 200).</p>
G11		<p>Fig (11): Showing slight vacuolar degeneration of some hepatocytes (black arrow) (H & E X 200).</p>
G12		<p>Fig (12): Showing slight vacuolar degeneration of some hepatocytes (black arrow) (H & E X 200).</p>
<p>G1: negative control group, G2: control positive, G3: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G4: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G5: 7.5% Moringa powder and G6: 10% Moringa powder. G7: negative control group, G8: control positive, G9: 7.5% Milk Thistle powder, G10: 10% Milk Thistle powder, G11: 7.5% Moringa powder and G12: 10% Moringa powder.</p>		

CONCLUSION

Milk thistle and moringa are natural herbs that show promising effects in treating liver problems. It contains joint benefits of protecting liver cells from damage, reducing hepatic inflammation, reducing liver toxicity and lowering cholesterol levels. They also had a therapeutic and preventive effect on the damage caused by carbon tetrachloride and improved the biochemical parameters of the liver, kidneys and lipid profile.

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