

# Mesenchymal Stem Cells Derived Extracellular Vesicles Ameliorate Cortical Cerebellar Changes-induced by Aspartame in Rats, Histological and Immunohistochemical Study

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Exosomes are endogenous nanovesicles that cooperate key roles in intercellular signaling by bearing functional genetic information and proteins between cells. Exosomes speedily cross the blood-brain barrier and have indicated as therapeutic approach vehicles that have the potential to specifically deliver molecules to the central nervous system (CNS). Aspartame (ASP) is applied in many products. ASP has been interconnected to cause neurological and behavioral changes such as headache, insomnia, and seizures.

**Aim:** Aim of this study was to determine the potential role of exosomes on cerebellar changes caused by aspartame (ASP).

**Materials and Methods:** Thirty five adult male albino rats were divided into three groups. The first group served as the control group. In the second group, the rats were given ASP orally at a dose of 250 mg/kg/day for 6 weeks. In the third group, the rats were given ASP as group II plus exosomes in a dose of 100 mg/kg intravenously/twice per week. At the end of the 6th week of the experiment cerebellar specimens were appropriated for histological and immuno-histochemical studies.

**Results:** In the ASP-treated group, disorganization of the three layers of the cerebellar cortex was observed. Spaces were seen between the cells. Small pyknotic nuclei of Purkinje cells and deformed cells were also detected. Furthermore, there was a significant increase ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) of GFAP, COX-2 and caspase-3 immune expression compared with control group. Exosomes in conjunction with ASP resulted in improvement in the organization of cellular layers of the cerebellar cortex with a significant decrease ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) of GFAP, COX-2 and caspase-3 immune expression compared with group II.

**Conclusion:** Exosomes ameliorates the neuropathological changes caused by aspartame on the structure of the cerebellar cortex of albino rats.

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**Key Words:** Aspartame, cerebellum, exosomes.

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## INTRODUCTION

Many peoples used to consume artificial sweeteners to reduce sugar consumption and decrease caloric intake. Healthy individuals, diabetic patients and overweights ingest aspartame (ASP) as it had nearly 200 fold higher sweetness than sucrose<sup>[1]</sup>. Aspartame is a methyl ester of a dipeptide (L-aspartyl- L-phenylalanine methyl ester). It enters in the components of various foods and drinks<sup>[2]</sup>. ASP is hydrolyzed to three components: phenylalanine, aspartate and methanol. Each solitary of these components are toxic and disturb different body organs mainly the central nervous system<sup>[3]</sup>.

Consumption of ASP in large doses have aggressive and harmful effect on the structure of the cerebellar cortex of the albino rats<sup>[5]</sup>. ASP consumption might result in seizures, memory loss, dizziness, headaches and behavioral changes<sup>[4]</sup>. ASP was hydrolyzed to form phenylalanine, aspartic acid and methanol. Each element result in different neurological and behavioral maladies<sup>[6]</sup>.

In addition, these pathologic changes may be due to the fact that ASP can penetrate the blood-brain barrier and cause neurotoxicity of brain cells resulting in brain damage<sup>[7]</sup> and many neurological disorders such as persistent headache, Alzheimer and seizures<sup>[8]</sup>.

Novel approaches using different types of stem cells have been projected to treat common neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, or stroke. Moreover, exosomes of these cells exists to be of greater value compared to the cells themselves<sup>[9]</sup>. Exosomes have lately been tested in vivo and in vitro for the treatment of diseases. As such, they could be engineered to target specific populations of the CNS cells<sup>[10]</sup>.

Exosomes, the extracellular nanovesicles can be isolated from all body fluids and have a paracrine mechanism for cell-to-cell communication. They carry a complex cargo consisting of various types of RNA (ribosomal RNAs, long noncoding RNAs, and microRNAs), proteins, lipids, and DNA<sup>[11-12]</sup>.

Exosomes are critical players in intercellular communication that can primarily affect various physiological functions at targeted cells. Exosomes are generated within the cells from multivesicular bodies (MVB) and released into extracellular space via exocytosis<sup>[9]</sup>. These membrane enveloped nanovesicles conduct genetic material, proteins and lipids. They are engaged in regulation of targeted cells and travel in extracellular body fluids to act on nearby cells, in addition to distant targets<sup>[11]</sup>.

Aim of the work is to study the therapeutic effects of exosomes on cerebellar cortex changes induced by ASP. aspartame (ASP) was used as a model of degenerative diseases of the cerebellum .

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1. Reagents

- MSC-derived exosomes were achieved from Alkasr-Aliny biochemistry department. The protein content of the exosome pellet was quantified by the Bradford method (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA)<sup>[13]</sup>. The dose of injected exosomes was adjusted to 100 mg protein/suspended in 0.2 ml phosphate-buffered saline (PBS)<sup>[14]</sup>.
- Aspartame was purchased from sigma company. It was given by intragastric tube in a dose of 250 mg/rat/day dissolved in tap water<sup>[15]</sup>.

### 2.2. Experimental animals

Thirty five mature male albino rats (180-200 g), were obtained from the Animal Unit, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Benha University, Egypt. The rats were bred and maintained in an air-conditioned animal house and specific pathogen-free conditions. All animals were accommodated in clean cages and donated a standard diet and clean water ad libitum. Rats were subjected to a normal light/dark cycle (12-h light-dark cycle starting at 8:00 AM) and room temperature ( $23 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ ). This study was carried out in strict accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the National Institutes of Health. All protocols were approved by the institutional review board for animal experiments of the Faculty of Medicine, Benhha University, Egypt.

### 2.3. Experimental design and treatment protocol

Rats were divided into three groups as follow:

**Group I (Control group):** 15 rats were subdivided equally into 3 subgroups:

**Subgroup A:** rats placed without any intervention.

**Subgroup B:** they were given distilled water daily by intragastric tube for 6 weeks.

**Subgroup C:** they were intravenously injected with 0.2 mL phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), once per week, for 6 weeks (vehicle for exosomes).

**Group II (ASP group):** 10 rats were given aspartame daily for 6 weeks . It was given by intragastric tube in a dose of 250 mg/rat/day dissolved in tap water<sup>[15]</sup>.

**Group III (ASP+ exosomes group):** 10 rats were given aspartame daily for 6 weeks as group II. Rats were treated with two injections of exosomes through the tail vein<sup>[12]</sup> once per week for 6 weeks, from the start of the experiment until the end.

At the end of the 6 weeks, rats were sacrificed and cerebellum were resected out. The sections were fixed in 10% buffered formal saline and processed for paraffin sections of 4-6  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness, mounted on glass slides for H&E<sup>[16]</sup>. Correspondingly, immunohistochemical evaluation for GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 were performed<sup>[17]</sup>.

### 2.4. Preparation of MSC-Derived Exosomes

MSC-derived exosomes were achieved from the supernatant of MSCs, representing conditioned media. First, rat bone marrow-derived MSCs (BM-MSCs) were primed in the Central Lab, Faculty of Medicine, Benhha University<sup>[10]</sup>. The MSCs were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) with 0.5% human serum albumin (HSA) (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), overnight. The viability of the cells cultured overnight was extra than 99%, as identified by trypan blue exclusion. Cells were plated at 4000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> exactly 10 days. On last day, cells were trypsinized, counted, and replated in expansion medium at a density of 2000 cells/cm<sup>2</sup> for additional ten days (end of passage 1). The expansion was implemented until the third passage.

The conditioned medium was stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$ . The medium was centrifuged at 2000g for 20 min and remove debris, then ultra-centrifuged at 100,000 X g in a SW41 swing rotor (Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA, USA) for one hour at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Exosomes were washed with serum-free M199 (Sigma-Aldrich) comprising 25 mM 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES) (pH = 7.4), and proposed to a second ultracentrifugation in the identical way.

### 2.5. Localization of MSCs-EVs

Exosomes were isolated from the supernatant of the first, second, and third passages of MSCs cultured in alpha-MEM. The MSC-derived exosomes were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in HSA for 2 h. After washing, exosomes were ultracentrifuged and suspended in 100 mL HSA. An absolute of 20 mL of exosomes was loaded onto a formvar/carben-coated grid, negatively stained with 3% aqueous phosphor-tungstic acid for 1 min, and observed by transmission electron microscopy (Hitachi H-7650, Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan)<sup>[11]</sup>. Additionally, PKH26 (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) was used to confirm the exosome localization within the cerebellum. The exosome pellet was diluted with PKH-26 kit solution to 1 ml, and 2 ml of fluorochrome was added to this

suspension and incubated at 38.5 °C for 15 min. After that, 7 mL of serum-free HG-DMEM was appended to the suspension, then it was ultracentrifuged for second time at 100,000Xg for 1 h at 4 °C. The final pellet was resuspended rapidly in HG-DMEM and stored at -80 °C for future injection in experimentally rats<sup>[14]</sup>.

## 2.6. Immunohistochemistry study

Serial paraffin sections of 5 µm thick were deparaffinized and dehydrated, The endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked with 0.05% hydrogen peroxide in absolute alcohol for 30 minutis. The slides were washed 5 min in phosphite buffered saline (PBS) at PH=7.4. To unmask the antigenic spots, sections were put into 0.01M citrate buffer (PH=6) in the microwave for 5 min. The slides were incubated in 1% bovin serum albumin dissolved in PBS for 30 min at 37°C with the purpose of prevent the nonspecific background staining. Two drops of ready to use primary antibody for Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) of glial cells (purchased from Lab vision, USA), anti-rabbit, anti-mouse polyclonal COX-2-specific IgG (SAB4200576; Sigma) and Caspase-3 (CPP-32, Apoptain, Yama, SCA-1)<sup>[17]</sup> were applied to sections, except for negative control, then they were incubated for one hour and half at room temperature. The slides were rinsed with PBS, then incubated for one hour with anti-mouse immunoglobulins (secondary antibody) conjugated to peroxidase labeled dextran polymer (AKO, Denmark). With the aim of detect the reaction, the slides were incubated in 3,3-diaminobenzidene (DAB) for 15 min. The slides were counterstained by Mayer's Haematexylin, then dehydrated, cleared and mounted by DPX11.

## 2.7. Morphometric study and Statistical analysis

The mean area% of GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 expression were quantified in 10 images for cerebellar cortex sections from 10 rats of each group using Image-Pro Plus program, version 6.0 (Media Cybernetics Inc., Bethesda, Maryland, USA). Statistical analysis was performed using the statistical software package SPSS for Windows (Version 22; SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Evaluation of differences between groups was performed using one-way ANOVA with post HOC test (LSD). In each test, all the data are presented as mean ± standard deviation (SD), and *P* value <0.01 was considered significant.

## RESULTS

### 3.1. Exosome Characterization

A transmission electron microscopy examination of purified exosomes *in vivo* demonstrated their characteristic spheroid double-membrane bound morphology with a diameter of 30–90 nm (Figure 1). The exosomes were detected in cerebellar tissues by PKH26 dye tracing (Figure 2).

### 3.2. Haematoxylin and Eosin results

Cerebellar cortex of the three subgroups of group I (control group) showed similar results. It was formed of

three layers. Outer molecular layer, formed of few scattered cells with many nerve fibers and dendrites. Middle Purkinje cell layer appeared as a single continuous layer of large cells at the junction of superficial molecular and deep granular layers. Purkinje cells appeared with large flask shaped cell bodies contained rounded pale stained nuclei with prominent nucleoli. Inner granular layer, of densely packed nuclei of numerous granular cells. (Figure 3). ASP group showed, empty spaces appeared between cells of the granular layer. Most of the Purkinje cells appeared deformed and shrunken losing their characteristic pyriform shape. Some of them showed deeply stained condensed nuclei. Halo of empty spaces appeared around the Purkinje cells which was dilatation of the perineural space. Granular layer having cells with very dense nuclei separated by empty spaces between them (Figure 4). Exosomes + ASP group showed no spaces in the granular layer between cells. Purkinje cells regained their pyriform shape and their nuclei appeared vesicular. They appeared with large flask shaped cell bodies contained rounded pale stained nuclei with prominent nucleoli. The superficial molecular layer, was formed of few scattered cells with many nerve fibers and dendrites and deep granular cell layer, of densely packed nuclei (Figure 5).

## 3.3. Immunohistochemistry results

### 3.3.1. Immunohistochemical staining for GFAP

Positive reaction appeared brown in color for glial cells. Control group showed few small sized GFAP positive cells (astrocytes) with short processes in the three layers of cerebellar cortex (Figure 6). Aspartame group showed increased intensity of the reaction, apparently increased size of cell body, number and length of their processes with strong expression of GFAP (Figure 7). Exosomes + ASP group showed smaller sized GFAP positive cells (astrocytes) than in group II with short processes (Figure 8).

### 3.3.2. Immunohistochemical evaluation for cyclooxygenase 2

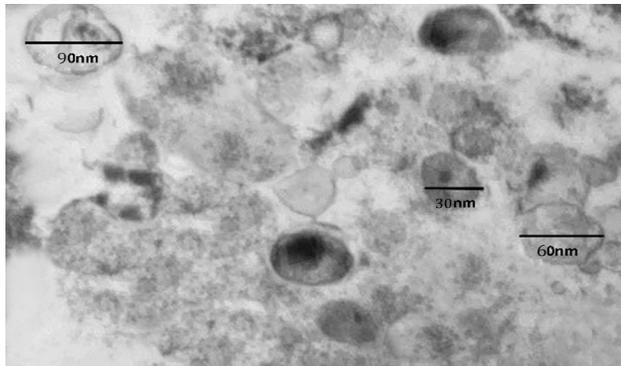
Positive immunostaining gave cytoplasmic brown granules indicating inflammation. Sections of the control group showed few immune reaction for COX 2 (Figure 9). The ASP treated group showed, a strong positive COX 2 reaction (Figure 10). While the COX 2 immunoreaction was mild in group III (ASP + exosomes group) (Figure 11).

### 3.3.3. Immunohistochemical staining for caspase -3

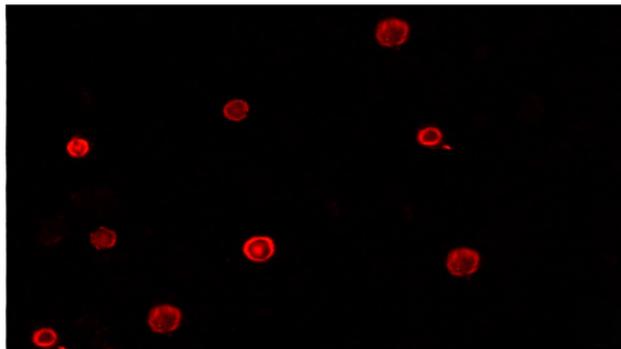
Positive immunohistochemical staining of caspase-3 was demonstrated as brown cytoplasmic reaction in apoptotic cells. In Group I (control group), there was scant cytoplasmic immune reactivity for caspase-3 (Figure 12). Group II (ASP group) showed strong cytoplasmic immune reactivity for caspase-3 (Figure 13). While group III (exosomes + ASP group) showed mild cytoplasmic immune reactivity for caspase-3 (Figure 14).

### 3.4. Morphometric results

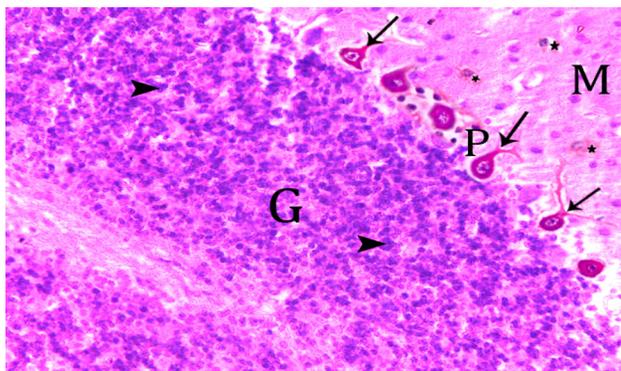
The mean area % and standard deviation (SD) of GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 immuno-expression for all groups was represented in (Tables 1,2 and 3) and (Histograms 1,2 and 3). There was a significant increase ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) in mean area % of GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 immuno-expression of group II (ASP group) compared with group I. There was a significant decrease ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) in mean area % of GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 immuno-expression of group III (Exosomes+ ASP group) compared with group II (ASP group).



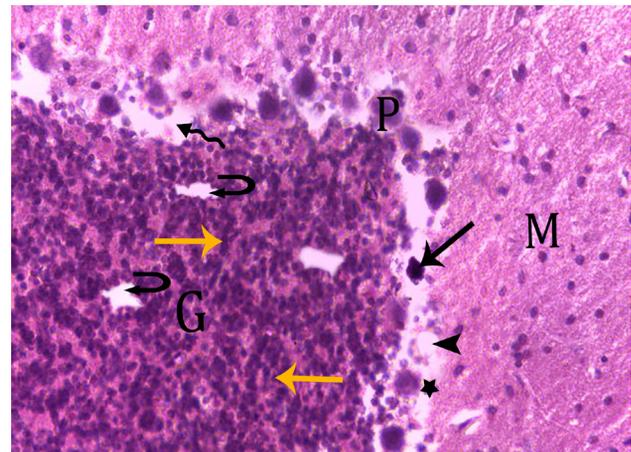
**Fig. 1:** An electron micrograph of exosomes in vivo showing a spheroid double membrane vesicles bound morphology with a diameter of 30–90 nm.



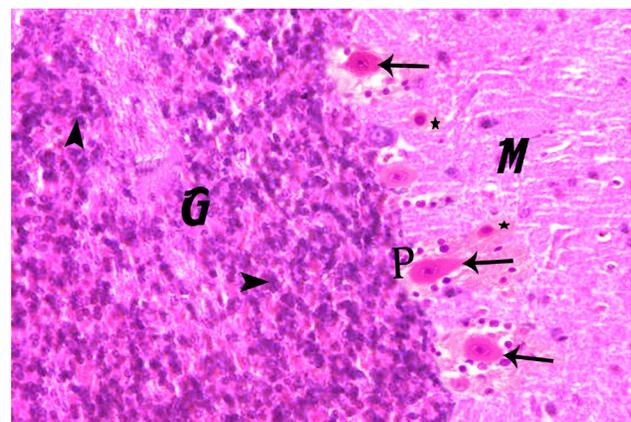
**Fig. 2:** A photomicrograph in a section of the cerebellum of group III (exosomes + ASP) showing its fluorescent dye by PKH26



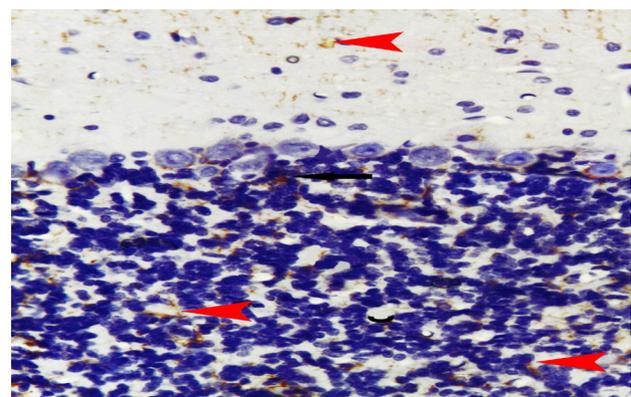
**Fig. 3:** A photomicrograph of a section in the cerebellar cortex of a rat from group I (control group) showing; molecular layer (M) with few scattered cells (stars), Purkinje cell layer (P), Purkinje cells appear as large pyriform cells arranged in single row (arrow) and granular cell layer (G) appears as tightly packed small cells with deeply stained nuclei (head arrow). (H&E X400)



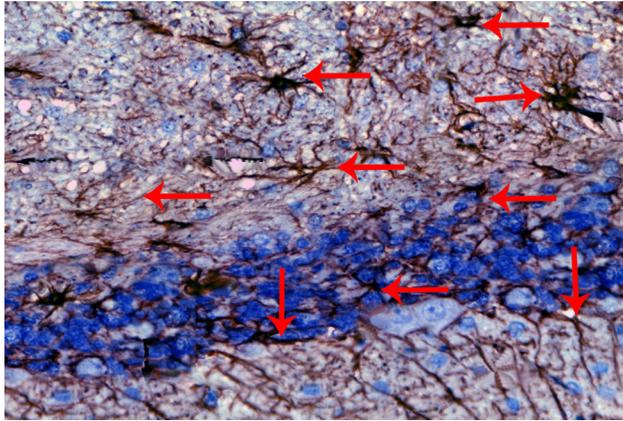
**Fig. 4:** A photomicrograph of a section in the cerebellar cortex of a rat from group II (ASP group) showing; molecular layer (M) with many scattered cells. Purkinje cell layer (P) with deformed cells (star) and deeply stained shrunken Purkinje cells with pyknotic nuclei (arrow), dilatation of perineural space (head arrow). Notice empty spaces between cells of the granular layer (curved arrow) and in Purkinje cell layer (zigzag arrow). Granular layer (G) having cells with dense nuclei (yellow arrow). (H&E X400)



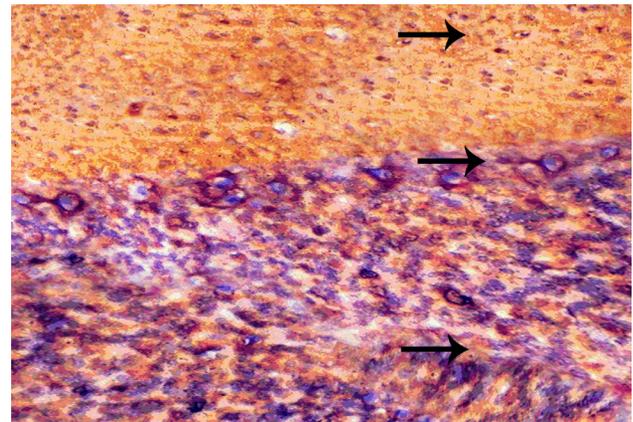
**Fig. 5:** A photomicrograph of a section in the cerebellar cortex of a rat from group III (ASP+ exosomes group) showing; molecular layer (M) with many scattered cells (stars). Purkinje cell layer (P) showing Purkinje cell apparently nearly normal shape (arrow) and granular cell layer (G) with deeply stained nuclei (head arrow). (H&E X400)



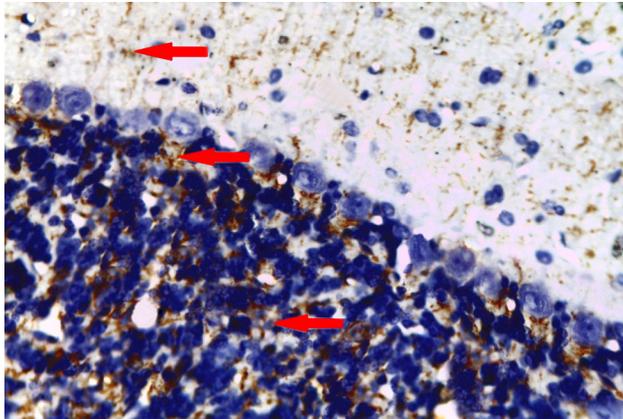
**Fig. 6:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group I (control group) showing few GFAP positive astrocytes (head arrow) (Immunohistochemistry stain for GFAP X400)



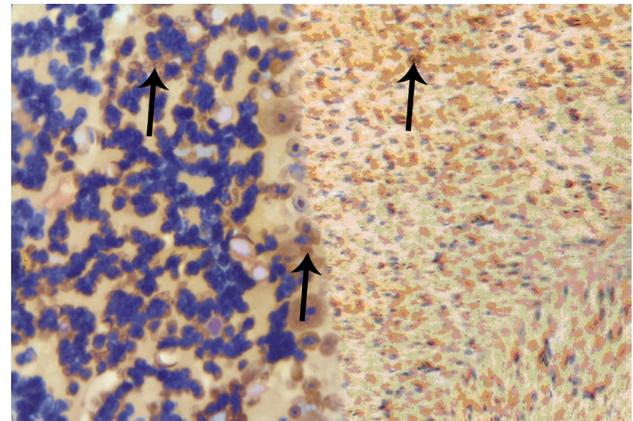
**Fig. 7:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group II (ASP group) showing strong positive GFAP astrocytes (arrow). an apparent increase in number of the positive astrocytes is noticed. (Immunohistochemistry stain for GFAP X400)



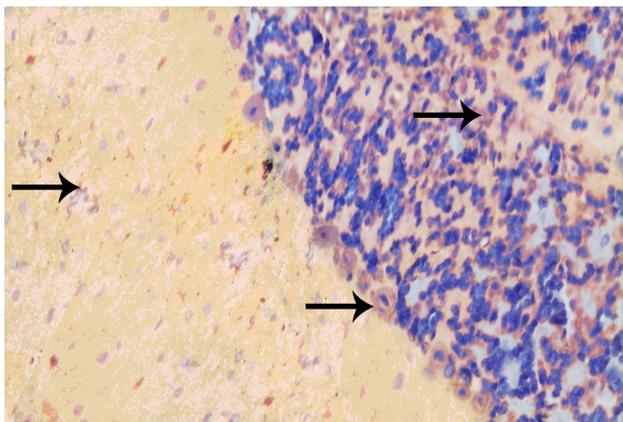
**Fig. 10:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group II (ASP group) showing strong positive cytoplasmic reaction to cyclooxygenase 2 (arrow). (immunohistochemical stain of COX 2 x400)



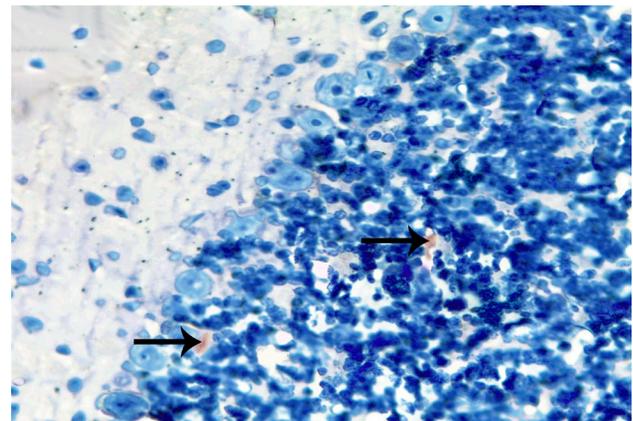
**Fig. 8:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group III (Exosomes + ASP group) showing few GFAP positive astrocytes (arrow). (Immunohistochemistry stain for GFAP X400)



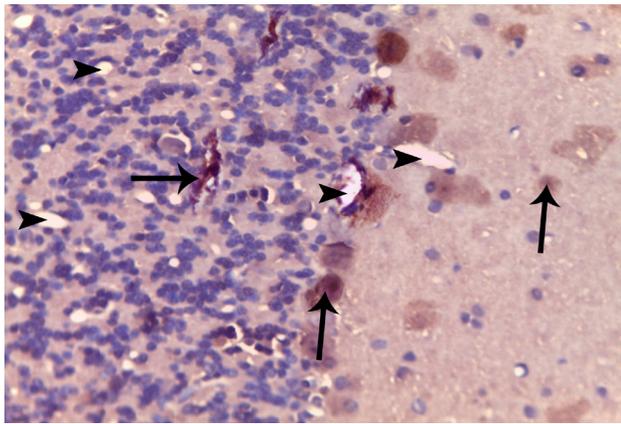
**Fig. 11:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group III (ASP + exosomes group) showing mild cytoplasmic reaction to cyclooxygenase 2 (arrow). (Immunohistochemical stain of COX 2 x 400)



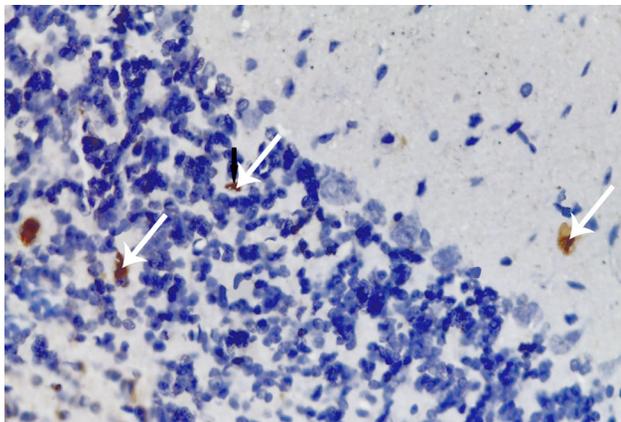
**Fig. 9:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group I showing few cytoplasmic reaction to cyclooxygenase 2 (arrow). (Immunohistochemical stain of COX 2, x400)



**Fig. 12:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group I showing very scant cytoplasmic reaction to caspase -3 (arrow). (Immunohistochemical stain of caspase-3, x400)



**Fig. 13:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group II (ASP group) showing strong positive reaction to caspase-3 (arrow). Notice, spaces between cells (head arrow) (immunohistochemical stain of caspase 3 x400)

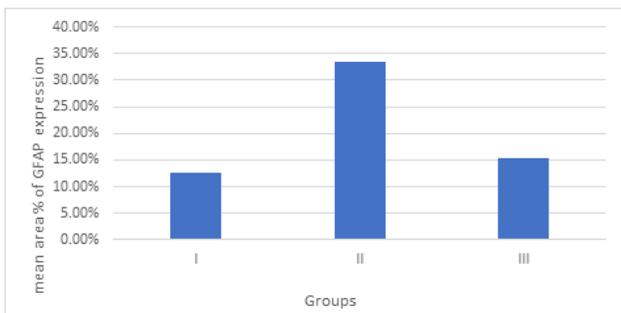


**Fig. 14:** A photomicrograph of a section in cerebellar cortex of a rat from group III (ASP + exosomes group) showing mild reaction to caspase-3 (arrow). (Immunohistochemical stain of caspase-3 x 400)

**Table 1:** Showing the mean area % and SD of GFAP immuno-expression for all groups

	Group I	Group II	Group III
Mean	12.66%	33.46%	15.32%
SD	0.8021	1.1243	0.8544
Significance at $P < 0.01$	2,3	1,3	1,2

1=sig. with group I    2=sig. with group II    3=sig. with group III

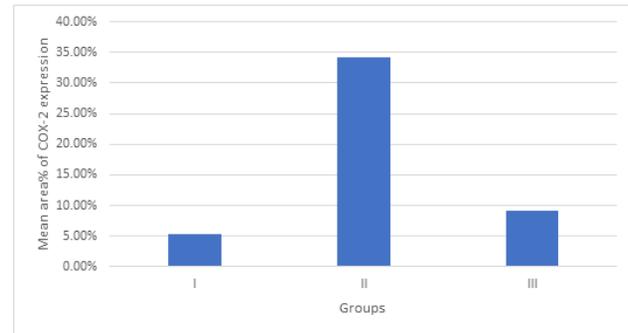


**Histogram 1:** Showing the mean area % of GFAP immuno-expression in groups I, II and III

**Table 2:** Showing the mean area % and SD of COX2 immuno-expression for all groups

	Group I	Group II	Group III
Mean	5.33%	34.26%	9.22%
SD	0.7055	1.3114	0.7117
Significance at $P < 0.01$	2,3	1,3	1,2

1=sig. with group I    2=sig. with group II    3=sig. with group III

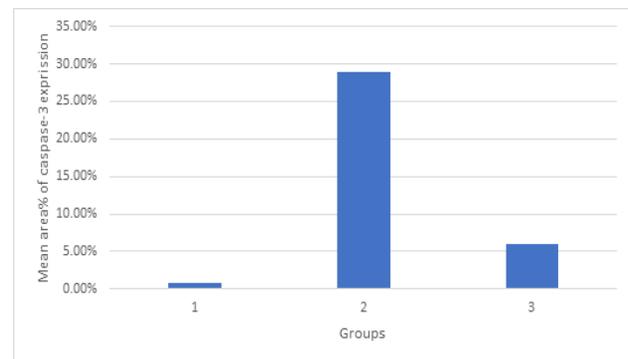


**Histogram 2:** Showing the mean area % of COX2 immuno-expression in groups I, II and III

**Table 3:** Showing the mean area % and SD of caspase-3 immuno-expression for all groups

	Group I	Group II	Group III
Mean	0.77%	28.97%	5.97%
SD	0.6000	1.1322	0.6568
Significance at $P < 0.01$	2,3	1,3	1,2

1=sig. with group I    2=sig. with group II    3=sig. with group III



**Histogram 3:** Showing the mean area % of caspase-3 immuno-expression in groups I, II and III

**DISCUSSION**

The complexity of the central nervous system (CNS) and the multifactorial nature of CNS disorders are the most obvious challenges of researchers.

Stem cell-derived exosomes might be a new treatment for common neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s Disease, Parkinson’s disease, or stroke. Moreover, microvesicles secreted by stem cells appears to be of greater benefit compared to the cells themselves<sup>[18-32]</sup>.

The ASP group of the current study revealed deformed Purkinje cells with small deeply stained condensed pyknotic nuclei and dilatation of perineural space. The GFAP, COX2 and caspase-3 immuno-expression was significantly increased ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) in the cerebellar cortex compared to control group.

These changes in accordance with some authors<sup>[19-20]</sup> who reported that cerebellar cells were damaged by ASP with splitting of some areas of white matter and destruction of neurons.

Several scientists<sup>[18-21]</sup> proposed that phenylalanine (55% of aspartame), when entering the body, could cross the blood brain barrier and decreased catecholamines neurotransmitter level. Also methanol attached to the DNA, RNA and proteins of the cells became complicated to be removed, which might cause breaks in the DNA of neural cells. On the other hand, some authors<sup>[19-20-22]</sup> stated that microglia/macrophages activated during brain injury thought to be a major sources of both proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines in the CNS, including the release of TNF-a and IL-1b. However, excessive cytokines and chemokines released by them can directly or indirectly cause damage to neural cells, increase the permeability of the BBB, activate astrocytes and recruit leukocytes. This results lead to an amplification of the inflammation and cell death.

Previous studies<sup>[21-22]</sup> correlate increased COX-2 enzyme activity to increased level of Phenylalanine and aspartic acid which change the activity of the brain and alter its enzymes. On the other hand, other studies<sup>[5-19]</sup> correlate these changes to methanol, a component was formed from aspartame hydrolysis, which is known to be neurotoxin and carcinogen.

Some investigators<sup>[18-23]</sup> mentioned that aspartic acid might excite the brain cells till death. But some authors<sup>[22-24]</sup> explained the neuronal death as it might be triggered by excitotoxins. Excessive stimulation of the excitatory glutamate receptors by glutamate receptor agonist (like aspartic acid) could increase ion movement across the cell membrane. Sequestration of excess calcium into the mitochondria and the endoplasmic reticulum which were harmful to them. Moreover, the stressed mitochondria released cytochrome c, which is one of the key enzymes in oxidative phosphorylation. This enzyme activated caspase-9 which in turn act on caspase-3 to initiate irreversible phases of apoptosis (programmed cell death)<sup>[25]</sup>. Other workers<sup>[25-26]</sup> suggested that caspase-3 was responsible for cleavage and inactivation of plasma membrane calcium pump in neurons.

Among the risks of regarding recent potential therapies for CNS disorders, one of the most outstanding results in the field is the fact that systemically injected exosomes are able to cross the BBB and achieve the brain parenchyma<sup>[27]</sup>.

Exosomes +ASP group of the present study, showed improvement in the histological structure of the cerebellar

cortex cells; the area percentage of GFAP-stained glial cells, COX-2 and caspase -3 immune expression were significantly decreased ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) compared to ASP group,

The systemic effect of exosomes achieved in this study was explained by<sup>[28]</sup>, who found that the exosomes are associated with the control of transcription, proliferation, and immunoregulation of various cells. Similarly, some scientists found that systemically injected human BM-MSC derived exosomes were able to improve angiogenesis and neurogenesis<sup>[29]</sup>.

Some authors found that exosomes treatment could inhibit the expression of TNF-a and IL-1b. furthermore, they also demonstrated that systemic injection of exosomes could improve cerebellum via neurogenesis and neuroinflammation reduction<sup>[27]</sup>. A previous study<sup>[28]</sup> demonstrated that exosomes released by MSCs could be captured by astrocytes and neurons. Some studies<sup>[26-28]</sup> reported that some cytokines and growth factors released by exosomes support the neuronal recovery and microglial cells. Furthermore, the use of MSC-EX have identified transitioning to occur between the two main subtypes of microglia, namely, M1 and M2. These studies<sup>[27-29]</sup> reported polarization from the pro-inflammatory phenotype M1 to the anti-inflammatory phenotype M2, which suppresses M1 pro-inflammatory mediators leading to tissue repair. Some authors<sup>[30-31]</sup> reported that stem cells-generated exosomes could reduce the number of CD68C and the M1 phenotype microglia/macrophage cells in the cerebellum.

## CONCLUSION

Mesenchymal stem cells derived exosomes ameliorates the neuropathological changes caused by aspartame on cerebellum of albino rats. So exosomes are promising as a vehicle for therapeutic potential of cerebellar degenerative diseases for future studies.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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## الملخص العربي

# الحويصلات المشتقة من الخلايا الجذعية للنسيج الاوسط تحسن تغيرات قشره المخيخ المستحثه بالاسبرتام في الجرذان , دراسه هستولوجيه وهستوكيميائيه مناعيه

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**المقدمه:** تلعب الحويصلات دورا هاما في الاتصالات الجينيه والوظيفيه مابين الخلايا. ملايين الاشخاص يستخدمون الاسبرتام في منتجات كثيره وقد تم ربطه كمسببات للتغيرات العصبيه والسلوكيه كالصداع، الارق والتشنجات.

**الهدف:** يهدف هذا البحث الى تقييم دور الحويصلات علي تغيرات المخيخ المستحثه بالاسبرتام.

**مواد وطرق البحث:** تم تقسيم خمسه وثلاثين من الجرذان الذكور البالغه الي ثلاث مجموعات .

**المجموعه الاولى:** المجموعه الضابطه. المجموعه الثانيه: تم اعطاء الجرذان الاسبرتام بجرعه 250 ملغم/كجم/يوم لمدته 6 اسابيع عن طريق الفم. المجموعه الثالثه: تم اعطاء الجرذان الاسبرتام مع الحويصلات بالوريد بجرعه 100 ملغم/كجم مرتان اسبوعيا لمدته 6 اسابيع. عند نهايه الاسبوع السادس تم استخراج عينات المخيخ لعمل الدراسه الهستولوجيه والهستوكيميائيه مناعيه.

**النتائج:** اظهرت مجموعه الاسبرتام خلل في الثلاث طبقات للقشره المخيخيه والتي ظهر بها فراغات بين الخلايا, مع ظهور خلايا بيركينجي مشوهه بالاضافه الي زياده في التعبير المناعي ل GFAP, COX<sup>2</sup>-and caspase<sup>3</sup> بالمقارنه بالمجموعات الاخرى. الحويصلات في المجموعه الثالثه ادت الي تحسن ملحوظ في خلايا القشره المخيخيه مع انخفاض في التعبير المناعي ل GFAP, COX<sup>2</sup>-and caspase<sup>3</sup> بالمقارنه بالمجموعات الاخرى.

**الخلاصه:** الحويصلات حسنت التغيرات العصبيه والباثولوجيه للقشره المخيخيه المستحثه بالاسبرتام في الجرذان البيضاء.