CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations (i)
List of Figures (ii)
List of Tables (iii)

1. INTRODUCTION/REVIEW OF LITERATURE 1

1.1 Hypercholesterolemia and CHD. 2
   1.1.1 Regulation of LDL metabolism. 2
   1.1.2 Causes of hypercholesterolemia. 4
   1.1.3 Diet and epidemiology of CHD. 8

1.2 Cholesterol-Induced Oxidative Stress-Linked Hypercholesterolemia and CHD. 9
   1.2.1 Oxidative stress in human erythrocytes. 11
   1.2.2 Formation of ROS from molecular oxygen. 12
   1.2.3 Iron redox status and oxidative stress in erythrocytes. 15
   1.2.4 Cellular antioxidant defense systems against ROS.
       1.2.4.1 Enzymatic antioxidants. 16
       1.2.4.2 Nonenzymatic antioxidants. 18
       1.2.4.3 Exogenous antioxidants. 19

1.3 Changes in Lipid and Lipoprotein Metabolism in Hypercholesterolemia. 20

1.4 Atherogenic Properties of Oxidized LDL and Small Dense LDL. 24

1.5 Enzymatic and Nonenzymatic Antioxidant Alterations in Hypercholesterolemia. 28

1.6 Management of Cholesterol-Induced Oxidative Stress and Hypercholesterolemia. 30

1.7 Objectives of the Present Study. 36

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1 Materials. 42
   2.1.1 Chemicals. 42
   2.1.2 Animals and Treatments. 44

2.2 Methods. 45

2.2.1 Preparation of Nonsaponifiable (NSF) and Volatile Oil (VO) Fractions from Nigella sativa Seed Oil. 45
   2.2.1.1 Extraction of NSF. 45
   2.2.1.2 Extraction of VO. 45

2.2.2 Analytical Procedures. 45
   2.2.2.1 Collection of blood and preparation of erythrocytes/membranes. 45
   2.2.2.2 Preparation of liver homogenate and post-mitochondrial supernatant. 46
   2.2.2.3 Determination of total phenolic contents in Nigella sativa (NS) seed oil, NSF, and VO fractions. 46
   2.2.2.4 Determination of free radical scavenging activities (antioxidant capacities) of NS seed oil and its NSF, VO fractions; pure thymoquinone (TQ) and pure Limonene (LMN).
       2.2.2.4.1 2,2-Diphenyl-1-Picryl Hydrazyl (DPPH) scavenging activity. 46
       2.2.2.4.2 Hydroxyl radical (*OH) scavenging activity. 47
2.2.2.4.3 2,2-Azinobis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS\textsuperscript{+}) scavenging activity.
2.2.2.4.4 Nitric oxide (NO\textsuperscript{*}) scavenging activity.
2.2.2.4.5 Chelating activity.
2.2.2.5 Antioxidant efficacies of NSF, VO and pure TQ on nonenzymatic lipid peroxidation in phopholipid liposomes.
2.2.2.6 Determination of plasma triglycerides.
2.2.2.7 Fractionation of plasma lipoproteins.
2.2.2.8 Determination of plasma cholesterol.
2.2.2.9 Measurement of ex vivo and in vitro Cu\textsuperscript{+2}-mediated susceptibility of LDL, sd-LDL and lb-LDL to oxidation.
2.2.2.10 Determination of total antioxidant activity in plasma.
2.2.2.10.1 ABTS radical scavenging assay.
2.2.2.10.2 Ferric reducing activity (FRAP assay).
2.2.2.11 Assay of plasma arylesterase antioxidant enzyme activity.
2.2.2.12 Measurement of malondialdehyde release from intact erythrocytes.
2.2.2.13 Determination of malondialdehyde in erythrocytes.
2.2.2.14 Assay of total and magnesium-dependent ATPase activities in erythrocyte membrane.
2.2.2.15 Estimation of lipid peroxides in plasma and liver homogenate.
2.2.2.16 Assay of HMG-CoA reductase activity in liver homogenate.
2.2.2.17 Activities of antioxidant enzymes.
2.2.2.17.1 Determination of catalase activity in erythrocytes and liver.
2.2.2.17.2 Determination of superoxide dismutase activity in erythrocytes and liver.
2.2.2.17.3 Determination of glutathione peroxidase activity in erythrocytes and liver.
2.2.2.17.4 Assay of glutathione reductase activity in erythrocytes and liver.
2.2.2.17.5 Determination of glutathione-S-transferase activity in liver.
2.2.2.18 Determination of GSH, GSSG and membrane-bound-SH contents in erythrocytes.
2.2.2.19 Determination of total, free, protein-bound-sulphhydryl and oxidized contents of glutathione in liver.
2.2.2.20 Protein estimation.
2.2.2.21 Statistical evaluation.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Average Yield of Nonsaponifiable (NSF) and Volatile Oil (VO) Extracts from Nigella sativa (NS) Seed Oil, their Total Phenolic Contents (TPC) and Fe\textsuperscript{+2}- Chelating Activities.

3.2 Determination of Antioxygenic Activities of NS Seed Oil and its NSF and VO Extracts by the 2,2-Diphenyl-1-Picryl Hydrazyl (DPPH) Radical Scavenging Method.

3.3 Comparison of Scavenging Activities of NS Seed Oil and its NSF and VO Extracts; Pure Thymoquinone (TQ) and Limonene (LMN) against 2,2-Diphenyl-1-Picryl Hydrazyl (DPPH), Hydroxyl (\(^{*}\)OH), 2,2-Azinobis-3-Ethylbenzothiazoline-6-Sulfonic Acid (ABTS\textsuperscript{+*}) and Nitric Oxide (NO\textsuperscript{*}) Free Radicals.
3.4 Inhibition of Nonenzymatic Lipid Peroxidation in Phospholipid Liposomes by NSF and VO Fractions of NS Seed Oil and Pure TQ.

3.5 Average Body Weight, Food Intake and Liver Weight.

3.6 Impact of NSF and VO Fractions from NS Seed Oil; Pure TQ and LMN on Antioxidant and Lipid Peroxidation Status in Plasma, Erythrocyte, Liver and Erythrocyte Membrane Bound ATPase Activities in Hyperlipidemic Rats Treated for 30 Days.
   3.6.1 Impact on plasma ABTS⁺⁺ scavenging activity, FRAP, Arylesterase antioxidant enzyme activity and lipid peroxidation products.
   3.6.2 Effect on membrane lipid peroxidation in erythrocytes.
   3.6.3 Impact on liver lipid peroxidation products.
   3.6.4 Effect on erythrocyte membrane bound total, Mg²⁺- and Na⁺, K⁺-dependent ATPase activities.

3.7 Modulatory Effects of NSF, VO, pure TQ and LMN on Antioxidant Defense System in Hyperlipidemic Stressed Rats.
   3.7.1 Effect on erythrocyte catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (Gpx) and glutathione reductase (Gred) activities.
   3.7.2 Impact on the in vivo modulation of liver catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (Gpx), glutathione reductase (Gred) and glutathione-S-transferase (GST) activities.

3.8 Effect on Hepatic Total, Free and Protein-Bound Sulfhydryl Contents, Oxidized Glutathione (GSSG) and GSSG:GSH ratio.

3.9 Effect of NSF and VO Fractions from NS Seed Oil; Pure TQ and LMN on Plasma Lipids, Plasma Lipoprotein Lipids, Hepatic HMG-CoA Reductase Activity in Hyperlipidemic Stressed Rats.
   3.9.1 Effect on plasma and lipoprotein lipids.
   3.9.2 Effect on enzymatic activity of hepatic HMG-CoA reductase.
   3.9.3 Effect on plasma LDL, small dense LDL and large buoyant LDL subfractions.
   3.9.4 Effect on HDL-C/LDL-C, HDL-C/TC and HDL-C/TG ratios.

3.10 Ex Vivo and In Vitro Cu²⁺-Mediated Oxidation of LDL, Sd-LDL and Lb-LDL in Hyperlipidemic Stressed Rats Treated with NSF, VO, pure TQ or LMN.
   3.10.1 Antioxidant effect on basal and maximal levels of CD formation and lag time in LDL, sd-LDL and lb-LDL.
   3.10.2 Antioxidant impact on basal and maximal levels of MDA in LDL, sd-LDL and lb-LDL.

4. DISCUSSION

5. SUMMARY

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY