

Original Research Article

Toxic Effect of African Black Soap (*Sabulun Salo*) on THE Histology of Albino Rat Stomach

ABSTRACT

Background: Sabulun salo (African traditional black soap) is widely used among various local communities in the northern Nigeria as medicinal herb. This experimental research is therefore to study the effect of oral administration of the soap on the stomach of Albino Rats.

Objectives: The objectives are to determine the effect of African black soap (Sabulun Salo) on the histology of stomach, hematological parameters and food and water consumption.

Methodology: 20 Albino rats used for this study were randomly divided into four groups. The first, second and third group (AC, BC, and FC) were orally administered with 2000mg/kg, 3000mg/kg and 4000mg/kg doses of sabulun salo respectively. The control group received normal saline, the animals were sacrificed under chloroform anaesthesia. The stomach was excised and processed for paraffin embedding. Blood samples were collected for haematological analyses.

Result: Incomplete metaplasia of the stomach epithelia were seen in the albino rats fed with 2000 mg/kg and 3000 mg/kg of the extract while complete metaplasia were observed among those on 4000 mg/kg. There were significant increase in white blood cell, hemoglobin and packed cell volume in the entire groups except the FC group when compared to control. There was decrease in food and water consumption across the groups

Conclusion: The results of this research have shown that the sabulun salo (African traditional black soap) is toxic to the albino rats exposed.

Keywords: sabulun salo, histological, albino rat, toxic, effect on stomach

Abbreviations: UDUTH (Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital)

27 **Introduction:**

28 African traditional black soap is the type of soap that is widely used among various communities
 29 within and outside the African continents (1). The name varies also among various communities
 30 in African. It is widely referred to as sabulun salo, ose dudu among the Yoruba and in Igbo as
 31 Nchankota (2). This legend black soap was introduced in Ghana from Nigeria many years ago by
 32 Yoruba traders doing business in Ghana (2). Traditionally, African black soap which has in
 33 combination of water, roasted plaintain skin or cocoa pod, palm oil, palm kernel oil or Shea
 34 butter when put together, is collectively referred to as black soap (1). Traditional medicine as
 35 described as the combination of knowledge, practice and belief incorporating plant, animal and
 36 mineral based medicine whether explicate or not, used in diagnosis, preventing or eliminating a
 37 physical, mental or social diseases and which may rely exclusively on past experience from
 38 generation to generation either verbally or in writing (3,4). African Black Soap has numerous
 39 benefit and importance (1). The African Black Soap has the ability of improving or eliminating
 40 uneven skin tone, razor bumps caused by ingrown hairs and skin rashes. It is an excellent for
 41 cleaning up oily skin, acne due to its antiseptic properties. It is also used to prevent skin from the
 42 rashes, ring worm measles, eczema and body odor. It is used in the treatment of many infectious
 43 diseases caused by micro-organism. Black soap is highly used for African spiritual purification
 44 (5). However, Sabulun Salo is special form of African Black Soap mainly used in the northern
 45 part of Nigeria. This type is devoid of artificial caustic soda, perfume, color and any other
 46 additives used in other types of African Black Soaps (6). It is produced from the ash of straw of
 47 millet and oil. The oil could be any of palm oil, groundnut oil, palm kernel oil, Shea butter.
 48 These types of African Black Soap are highly medicinal as it is used orally for the treatment of
 49 various forms of gastrointestinal tract infection. It is generally used in the northern part of

50 Nigeria for, cleaning and washing of stomach of toxic substances. The word soap is derived from
51 the Latin word called sapo which is cognate with Latin called sebum, a tallow appear to have
52 been originally applied to the product obtained by treating tallow with ash. But in its strict
53 chemical sense it refers to a combination of fatty acid with metallic bases (7).

54 It has been said that use of soap is a gauge of the civilization of a nation, but this may perhaps be
55 a great measure correct at the present day, the use of soap has not always been co existent with
56 civilization (7). The chemical constituents of sabulun salo are potassium hydroxide, sodium
57 hydroxide, fatty acid, glycerol and other trace elements which includes selenium, copper, lead
58 and cadmium 

59 Soap was first introduced into Rome from Germany, having been discovered by the Gaul who
60 used the product obtained by mixing a goat tallow and beech ash for giving a bright hue to the air
61 (7).In Africa, the native, especially the Fanti race have been accustomed to wash themselves with
62 soap prepared by mixing crude palm oil and water with the ash of banana and plantain skin (7).

63 **Materials and Methods:**

64 **Test Substance:** The sabulun salo used in this study was bought from the Shehu Shagari central
65 market in Sokoto, Nigeria.

66 **Animal husbandry:** Albino rats (About 3 weeks old) of either sex, bred in the animal house of
67 Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria, were used for
68 the research. The animal were transferred into the animal house of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical
69 Sciences of Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Nigeria. They were housed in a meshed

bottom cage and left for about 6 weeks for maturity and acclimatization under continuous 12h light/darkness and fed with pelletized feed from FA feeds, Sokoto.

Experimentation: The concentrations (2000, 3000 and 4000) mg/kg of weight of the sabulun salo solution were prepared. The albino rats were grouped into four sets of 5 rats each after taking their weight. The control rats were resided in cage C and were given normal saline. The exposed rats in cage AC, BC and FC were given 2000, 3000 and 4000mg/kg body weight of the sabulun salo, respectively. The experiment commenced on 4th June, 2015, six weeks after the purchase of the albino rats and was allowed to stay for about 14 days. At the end of the 14th day, the rats were sacrificed and the blood and the stomach organ were removed, processed, histologically and stained in the histology laboratory.

Hematological examination: The albino rats sedated with chloroform in the laboratory. Total death was prevented to allow for continuous flow of blood for proper blood collection. Each rat was pegged down on a work bench and held firmly with office pin. Surgical blades were used to cut through the chest region of the rat in a dorsal-ventral direction. The blood was then collected from the cardiac puncture using syringe and needle. And it was discarded into plane and EDTA bottle. The EDTA served as anti coagulant. The blood parameters (PCV, Hbg, WBC, Platelets and Differential Leucocytes) were determined using sysmex auto-analyzer.

Results and Discussion

The total number of twenty albino rats was used for the study. The albino rats were divided into experimental group of fifteen animals and the control group of five animals. The experimental group was divided group AC, AB and FC. And the groups were administered 2000, 3000 and

4000mg /kg of sabulun salo respectively. From fig. 1, there are decreases in both food and water consumptions as the concentrations of the sabulun salo increase along the groups when compared to control. The haematological values obtained for animals fed with different doses of sabulun salo are presented in Table 1. The results indicated that WBC, HBG and PCV increase significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the entire groups except those animals in group FC (on the highest dose) when compared with control. The platelets increase significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the entire groups when compared with control. The lymphocytes increase significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the group BC, decrease significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the group FC and the results also indicated that there are no significant differences in the group AC when compared to control.

The Monocytes decrease significantly ($p < 0.05$) in the group BC and FC when compared to control and the group AC showed no significant difference when compared to control.

The granulocytes showed no significant difference in the entire groups except those in group FC (on the highest dose) which increase significantly ($p < 0.05$) when compared to control.

The reduction of the water and food consumption of the exposed albino rats may be due to the irritation of the gastrointestinal tract of the albino rats caused by the sabulun salo solution ingestion. The reduction of water and food consumption in the exposed group also support the

finding of (8) who reported that sub lethal concentration of soap reduced the food consumption and the weight of catfish. (9) also observed that chronic concentration of soap also reduced food

consumption and retard the growth of the sea bass larvae exposed significantly. However, the

result contradicts (10) who did not observe any significant reduction in the growth, food and water consumption in albino rats exposed to the soap and detergents. Poor physiological

conditions of the exposed rats can lead to the loss of appetite(11). The fact that stomach organ of

the exposed rats showed a marked histopathological changes confirm that the soap has an adverse effect on the albino rats. The histopathological changes were as a result of cytotoxic agents(11) in the soap solution which caused multi organs injuries.

This result supports the finding of (12) and (13) who reported that ingestion of soap solution can cause multi organ damage leading to nervous system disorders, respiratory illness, cancer and even death. Furthermore , the result is in line with (14) and (15) both reported pathological changes in animal and plant exposed to soap, respectively. However, this study did not find cancer changes which has been suspected by some researchers (16), probably due to the short duration of the study.

Sodium silicate and potassium hydroxide, a major components of soap has been fingered in gastrointestinal irritation leading to nausea, severe digestive tract burns and weight loss in an exposed animal (18).Reduction in the blood parameters (WBC, Platelets, PCV, HBG and Differential) of the exposed albino rats compared to the control rat confirm the earlier report of (18) who reported blood parameters reduction in rabbit exposed to the soap. The reduction in the blood parameters was as a result of destruction of the cells of the albino rat by the traces of amounts of heavy metals found in the soap (19). (20) reported that blood of an animal may be adversely affected by soap used as anti bacteria because they do so by killing cells.The increase in the WBC of the exposed albino rats was as a result of immune response of the albino rat to the toxic components of the soap solution(21).

135 **Tables and Figures:**

136 Table 1: Hematological parameters of the experimental groups

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Parameters	Groups			
	Control	Group AC	Group BC	Group FC
WBC (x 10 ³ /μl)	4.10±0.00 ^a	4.80±.10 ^b	4.74±.11 ^{bc}	2.78±.24 ^d
HBG (g/dl)	11.30±0.00 ^b	11.82±0.26 ^c	11.42±0.34 ^{ab}	11.24±0.09 ^{bd}
PCV (%)	45.00±0.00 ^c	49.60±1.82 ^b	45.40±0.55 ^{ac}	44.82±0.61 ^{cd}
Platelets (10 ³ /μl)	545±0.00 ^a	693.2±28.86 ^b	798.6±116.95 ^c	611.80±47.97 ^{ab}
Lymphocyte (%)	88.10±0.00 ^d	87.48±1.21 ^d	89.12±0.91 ^{cd}	45.76±1.84 ^b
Monocytes (%)	4.60±0.00 ^c	4.86±0.37 ^c	4.04±0.21 ^b	3.00±0.40 ^c
Granulocytes (%)	7.30±0.00 ^a	7.46±1.15 ^a	6.80±0.78 ^a	51.24±2.01 ^b

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139 Values are presented as mean±SD. Values with different superscripts per row are significantly
 140 different (p<0.05). WBC=white blood cell, HBG=haemoglobin level, PCV=packed cell volume.

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143 Figure1: Effect of sabulun salo on food and water consumption

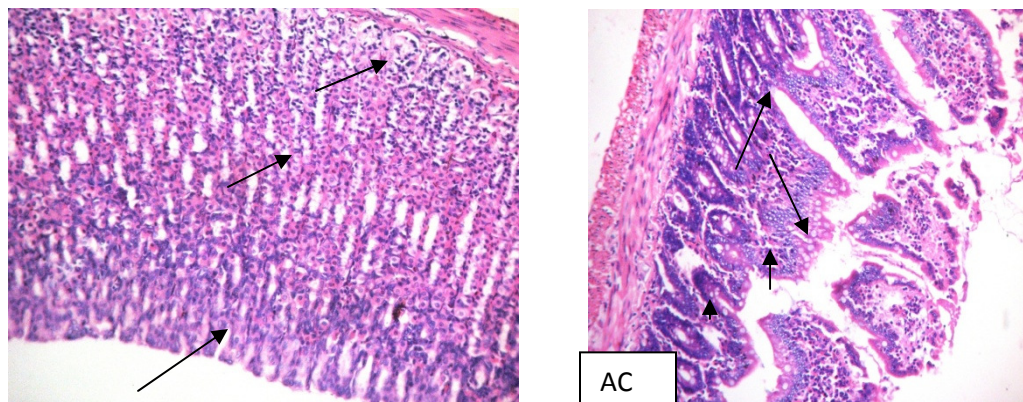
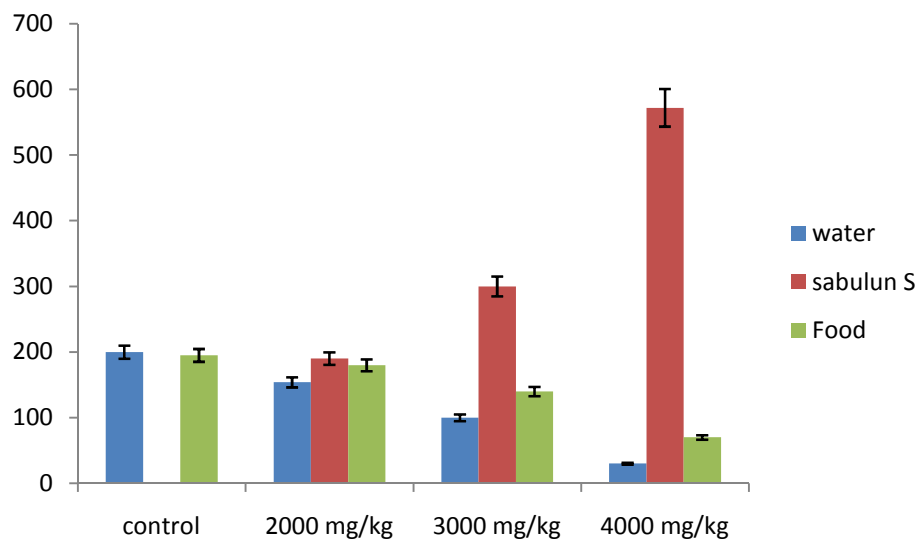


Fig. 2: Control group of kidney histology showing the short foveolae (long arrow) and the tightly packed glands. Purplish zymogenic cells predominate at the base, and pinkish parietal cells predominate in the upper part of the glands (short arrow) H& E X 40.

Fig. 3: AC group stomach histology showing an incomplete intestinal metaplasia. The epithelium consists of a mixture of intestinal-type goblet cells (long arrow) and columnar mucus-secreting cells, morphologically resembling those of the normal gastric epithelium (short arrow).

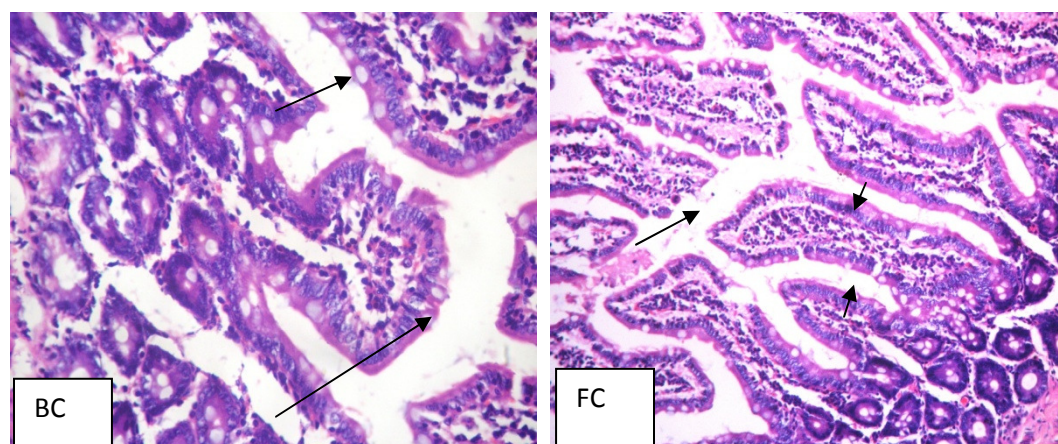


Fig. 4: BC group stomach histology showing the epithelium consists of a mixture of intestinal-type goblet cells (short arrow) and columnar mucus-secreting cells, morphologically resembling those of the normal gastric epithelium (long arrow)

Fig. 5: FC group stomach histology Showing a complete intestinal metaplasia with fully developed goblet cells (short arrow) and the contour of the mucosa changes with the development of villi (long arrow).H&E X40

Conclusion

The results of this research have shown that the sabulun salo (African traditional black soap) is toxic to the albino rats exposed. It is also presumed that all other animals including man will suffer similar fate if exposed to the sabulun salo solution. Finally, it is hoped that the result from this investigation will enlighten people on the health risk posed by sabulun salo consumption.

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