

# The efficacy of curcumin on PDGF expression and NF-kappa B pathway: TNBS-induced colitis

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## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Curcumin is an antioxidant and anti-inflammatory molecule known to be a potent inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa B (NF-kappa B). In this study, we aimed to investigate the therapeutic effects of curcumin on colitis induced by a 2,4,6-trinitrobenzene sulfonic acid (TNBS).

**METHODS:** After the induction of colitis under anesthesia, 42 rats were divided into six groups as follows; the curcumin oral group, curcumin (20 mg/kg); the corn oil oral group, corn oil (20 mg/kg) using gastric gavage, the curcumin rectal group, curcumin; the corn oil rectal group, corn oil; the control group, 1 mL saline solution (0.9% NaCl) were administered using the rectal route. In the sham group, only rectal catheterization was performed. At the end of the seven day, the blood and intestinal tissue samples were obtained for histopathological examination and for MPO, MDA, NO, PDGF, IL-6, TNF-alpha, NF-kappaB.

**RESULTS:** The macroscopic damage score was significantly higher in curcumin oral, corn oil oral and saline groups when compared to the sham group ( $p < 0.05$ ). The significant differences between groups were evaluated using the biochemical analysis of intestinal tissue for IL-6, NO, NF- $\kappa$ B, PDGF, TNF- $\alpha$ , MDA, MPO ( $p < 0.05$ ). NF- $\kappa$ B levels of blood in curcumin oral, curcumin rectal, sham, corn oil oral, corn oil rectal groups were significantly increased when compared to saline rectal group ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). NF- $\kappa$ B serum levels of corn oil rectal and control group ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) were lower than the sham group ( $p = 0.012$ ).

**CONCLUSION:** The effects of curcumin improved possibly by modulating the NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway should be considered against colitis alone or in combination with the conventional anti-colitic therapies in future studies.

**Keywords:** Anti-inflammatory; anti-oxidant; colitis; curcumin; NF-kappaB.

## INTRODUCTION

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD), usually referring to Ulcerative colitis or Chron's Disease, are determined by increased production of inflammatory cytokines, epithelial cell apoptosis and immune cell infiltration causing to the disruption of intestinal epithelial structure. The intestinal damage of IBD had a growing body of evidence determines that the abnormal production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and dif-

ferentiated antioxidant defense participation.<sup>[1,2]</sup> Nowadays, various drugs, including mesalamine, sulfasalazine, corticosteroids and immunomodulators, are used to be a part of the treatment of IBD patients. However, there are many side effects of these drugs and complications of diseases that show the unmet needs for the safety of the maintenance therapy.<sup>[3,4]</sup>

Curcumin derived from the root of the turmeric plant (*Curcuma longa*) appears to be the therapeutic compounds of

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pharmacological actions, including anti-tumor, anti-oxidant, anti-proliferative and anti-inflammatory effects.<sup>[5,6]</sup> Curcumin has an effect on modulating the inhibition of the tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) induced nuclear kappa-B (NF-kB) activation pathways.<sup>[7,8]</sup> Also, it has preventive and therapeutic effects in murine colitis models, including trinitrobenzene sulfonic acid (TNBS)-, dextran sulfate sodium (DSS)-, and dinitrobenzene sulfonic acid (DNB)-induced colitis by inhibiting NF-kB.<sup>[9,10]</sup>

The transmural inflammation of colitis induced by trinitrobenzene sulphonic acid (TNBS) affects the intestinal motor apparatus, and subsequently, a loss of myenteric and submucosal neurons adjacent to intestinal smooth muscle cells (ISMC) leading to changes in cell number.<sup>[11-14]</sup> There are many pluripotent activities of curcumin helping to these effects, such as a potent inhibitor of and platelet-derived growth factor PDGF-stimulated proliferation and pro-inflammatory factors, such as the cytokines IL-1 and TNF- $\alpha$  and mesenchymal growth factors, such as insulin-like growth factor (IGF).<sup>[15-17]</sup> Therefore, we conducted the present study to further approach the inflammation of colonic mucosa and investigate the possible preventive and therapeutic effects of curcumin considering new alternative therapy. Especially, we investigated the efficacy of different methods like the oral or rectal route of the curcumin treatment in this experimental model through the pathways of myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity and lipid peroxidation malondialdehyde (MDA).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Animals

Forty-two female Wistar Hannover rats weighing 300 to 500 g were used in this study. The animals were kept in a restricted access room with controlled temperature and light cycle. The animals were fed on standard rat chow, allowed access to tap water ad libitum. The rats were housed in individual standard cages. The study protocol was in accordance with the guidelines for animal research and approved by the Animal Ethical and Research Committee of Bagcilar Research and Training Hospital.

### Reagents

The trinitro-benzene sulfonic acid (TNBS) (5% w/v, 40 mg) and Curcumin were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, USA. Other agents used in this study were all of the analytical grades.

### Experimental Protocol

On the day of induction, the mixture of 0.6 mL of TNBS and 0.25 mL of 50% ethanol was instilled into the lumen of the colon by 6 F feeding tube, which was inserted rectally until the tip was 8 cm proximal to the anus. Then, 0.5 mL of air was given to ensure that the whole mixture was instilled into the lumen of the colon.

There were six groups consisting of seven rats for each: (1) control group: rats were treated with daily rectal single dose of saline (1 mL, 0.9% NaCl) using feeding tube from day one to day 7; (2) oral curcumin group: rats were treated with daily single dose of curcumin (20 mg/kg) which was dissolved in corn oil (1 mg/mL) by gastric gavage for seven days following the induction of colitis; (3) rectal curcumin group: rats were treated with daily rectal single dose of curcumin (20 mg/kg) which was dissolved in corn oil (1 mg/mL) by feeding tube for seven days following the induction of colitis; (4) sham group: no colitis was induced, only rectal insertion of feeding tube was performed once a day from day 1 to day 7; (5) oral corn oil group: rats were treated with daily single dose of corn oil (20 mg/kg) by gastric gavage for seven days following the induction of colitis; (6) rectal corn oil group: rats were treated with daily rectal single dose of corn oil (20 mg/kg) by feeding tube for seven days following the induction of colitis. At postoperative 7th day, after their weight measurements, finally, all rats under general anesthetized with intramuscular ketamine (50 mg/kg; Ketalar, Pfizer Inc.) and xylazine (10 mg/kg, Ronpum, Bayer AG), were performed laparotomy and total colectomy after inspection for adhesions and were sacrificed by an intra-cardiac puncture to get blood samples for nuclear kappa-B (NF-kB), nitric oxide (NO), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), interleukin 6 (IL-6), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ).

When tissue samples were obtained, macroscopic damage was scored on a scale of 0 to 13 modified from a description by Wang et al.<sup>[18]</sup> (Table 1) by the same pathologist who was

**Table 1.** Macroscopic scoring of mucosal damage in colitis

Macroscopic damage	Score
Ulceration and inflammation	
None	0
Local hyperemia, no ulcer	1
One site of ulcer not accompanied by congestion or thickening of the intestinal wall	2
One site of ulcer accompanied by inflammation	3
≥2 sites of ulcer accompanied by inflammation	4
1 cm > inflamed segment + ulcer site ≥2	5
1 cm < inflamed segment + ulcer site ≥2	6
2 cm ≤ inflamed segment (the score increases with each 1 cm enlargement of the inflamed segment)	7-10
Adhesions	
None	0
Mild (easy to separate colon from other tissues)	1
Severe	2
Diarrhea	
None	0
Present	1

blinded to the group assignment of the rats. Later, the tissue samples were fixed with 10% formaldehyde solution. Tissue samples of 5 mm in length were taken from 8 cm distal segments of total colectomy specimens. All samples were embedded in paraffin wax, and sections were taken and stained with hematoxylin-eosin (HE). All sections were evaluated using light microscopy and scored on a scale of 0 to 10, as described by Wang et al.<sup>[18]</sup> (Table 2) in a blinded fashion by the same pathologist.

Serum IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$  levels nuclear kappa-B (NF-Kb), nitric oxide (NO) and platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) were analyzed with ELISA using rat kits (Invitrogen<sup>TM</sup> Rat Immunoassay Kit; Invitrogen Corporation, Carlsbad, California, USA).

### Myeloperoxidase Activity Assay

Myeloperoxidase (MPO) is a biochemical sample of neutrophil infiltration into intestinal tissues and was used to determine colitis. Tissue samples were homogenized in 10 volumes of ice-cold potassium phosphate buffer (50 Mm K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, pH 6.0) containing hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide (0.5%, g/mL). One unit of the enzyme activity was established as the amount of MPO present per gram of tissue weight that causes a change in absorbance of 10 min at 460 nm (37°C). The MPO activity in the supernatant was evaluated by the assay kit, depending on its provider's instructions.

**Table 2.** Microscopic scoring of colitis

Histological lesion	Score
Ulcer	
None	0
Ulcer <3 mm	1
Ulcer >3 mm	2
Inflammation	
None	0
Mild	1
Severe	2
Granuloma	
None	0
Present	1
Depth of the disease	
None	0
Submucosal layer	1
Muscular layer	2
Serosal layer	3
Fibrosis	
None	0
Mild	1
Severe	2

### Lipid Peroxidation Determination

The colonic tissue for the determination of MDA and NO substances were homogenized in-cold PBS (pH 7.4) and centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. The last supernatant was collected at 20°C until analysis with corresponding assay kits according to the manufacturer's guide. The colon tissue samples were homogenized in 10% KCl (1.10g/mL) in a glass-glass homogenizer. Homogenate was added into the mixture, which consisted of 8.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.82% thiobarbituric acid, and acetate buffer (3M, pH 3.5), and the reaction was evaluated at 532 nm by the spectrophotometer. Results were identified as  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  using a standard curve.

### Statistical Analysis

Data were expressed as means  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 10.01 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). Overall comparisons between the groups were made using 1-way analyses of variance (ANOVA). The Kruskal-Wallis test followed by the Mann-Whitney U test was used for statistical evaluation, and  $p < 0.05$  was accepted as a level of significance.

## RESULTS

There were no statistically significant differences in weight loss between all groups. Also, when we evaluated the intra-abdominal adhesion, there were no statistically significant differences among the groups.

### Biochemical Assessment

The biochemical analysis of blood samples for PDGF, TNF- $\alpha$ , MPO did not show any significant difference among groups (Table 3). NF-kB levels of blood in curcumin oral, curcumin rectal, sham, corn oil oral, corn oil rectal groups were significantly increased when compared to saline rectal group ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). NF-kB serum levels of corn oil rectal and control group ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) were lower than the sham group ( $p = 0.012$ ). The significant differences between groups were evaluated by the analysis of intestinal tissue sampling for IL-6, NO, NF-kB, PDGF, TNF- $\alpha$ , MDA, MPO ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Table 4).

Tissue NF-kB level of curcumin oral group was lower than curcumin rectal ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), sham ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) and corn oil oral groups ( $p = 0.030$ ). Tissue NF-kB level of curcumin rectal group was higher than saline rectal ( $p = 0.005$ ), curcumin oral ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p = 0.045$ ) groups. The sham group for tissue NF-kB level was higher than saline rectal ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), curcumin oral ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), corn oil oral ( $p = 0.037$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) groups.

The tissue level of PDGF of the sham group was higher than the saline rectal ( $p = 0.003$ ), curcumin oral ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), corn oil oral ( $p = 0.004$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) groups. The

tissue level of PDGF in the curcumin oral group was significantly lower when compared to the curcumin rectal group ( $p=0.048$ ).

### Pro-Inflammatory Cytokine Release

IL-6 serum levels in corn oil oral group were significantly increased when compared to corn oil rectal ( $p=0.033$ ) and saline rectal ( $p=0.035$ ) groups. IL-6 tissue level of the sham group was significantly higher than all other groups ( $p<0.05$ ). TNF- $\alpha$  tissue level of the corn oil oral group was higher than the saline rectal ( $p=0.020$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p=0.033$ ) groups. The TNF- $\alpha$  tissue level of the curcumin oral group was lower than the curcumin rectal ( $p=0.001$ ) and sham ( $p=0.004$ ) groups. The TNF- $\alpha$  tissue level in the curcumin rectal group was higher when comparing to the saline rectal ( $p\leq 0.001$ ), curcumin oral ( $p\leq 0.001$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p\leq 0.001$ ). The TNF- $\alpha$  tissue level of the sham group was higher than the saline rectal ( $p\leq 0.001$ ), curcumin oral ( $p=0.004$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p\leq 0.001$ ).

### The Inflammatory Response

MPO tissue level of the sham group was significantly higher than the saline rectal ( $p=0.033$ ) and curcumin oral ( $p=0.005$ ) groups.

### Colonic Oxidative Differentiation

MDA serum level of the saline rectal group was lower than the sham group ( $p=0.017$ ), curcumin rectal ( $p=0.015$ ) and corn oil oral group ( $p=0.010$ ). MDA tissue level of the sham group was significantly higher than the curcumin oral group ( $p=0.013$ ).

NO serum level of the curcumin oral group was significantly higher than the saline rectal group ( $p=0.037$ ).

NO tissue level of the sham group was higher than curcumin oral ( $p=0.002$ ) and corn oil rectal ( $p=0.038$ ) groups.

### Histopathological Findings (Table 5)

The macroscopic damage score was significantly higher in curcumin oral ( $p=0.016$ ), corn oil oral ( $p=0.016$ ) and saline rectal ( $p=0.006$ ) groups when compared to the sham group. However, no significant difference was found between curcumin and corn oil groups. Even if it was not statistically significant, the macroscopic and microscopic damage scores of the curcumin rectal group were more decreased than the curcumin and corn oil groups except the sham group (Fig. 1). Microscopic damage score was significantly higher in curcumin oral ( $p=0.02$ ), saline rectal ( $p=0.015$ ) and corn oil oral ( $p=0.019$ )

**Table 3.** The biochemical analysis of blood samples (mean-standard deviation)

Biochemical	s_IL6	s_NO	s_NFkB	s_PDGF	s_TNF- $\alpha$	s_MDA	s_MPO
Saline rectal	156.74 $\pm$ 21.40	72.66 $\pm$ 22.94	1.50 $\pm$ 0.46	2.52 $\pm$ 0.28	143.92 $\pm$ 55.19	1.27 $\pm$ 0.09	19.81 $\pm$ 1.82
Curcumin oral	164.57 $\pm$ 19.16	105.49 $\pm$ 28.92	3.91 $\pm$ 0.71	2.62 $\pm$ 0.79	186.39 $\pm$ 39.68	1.63 $\pm$ 0.27	20.36 $\pm$ 2.51
Curcumin rectal	187.61 $\pm$ 19.45	97.24 $\pm$ 17.10	3.83 $\pm$ 0.51	2.98 $\pm$ 0.40	174.53 $\pm$ 39.74	1.70 $\pm$ 0.24	21.25 $\pm$ 3.17
Sham	165.70 $\pm$ 31.86	97.98 $\pm$ 12.66	4.32 $\pm$ 0.56	2.71 $\pm$ 0.31	193.81 $\pm$ 18.52	1.69 $\pm$ 0.27	22.73 $\pm$ 2.85
Corn oil oral	206.60 $\pm$ 51.05	90.91 $\pm$ 9.83	3.93 $\pm$ 0.39	2.91 $\pm$ 0.66	191.89 $\pm$ 20.90	1.72 $\pm$ 0.19	23.01 $\pm$ 1.93
Corn rectal	156.28 $\pm$ 20.33	80.89 $\pm$ 19.62	3.32 $\pm$ 0.43	3.08 $\pm$ 0.65	181.65 $\pm$ 37.00	1.45 $\pm$ 0.22	20.33 $\pm$ 3.00
P*	0.017	0.036	<0.001	0.364	0.158	0.004	0.126

IL-6, NO, NF-kB, PDGF, MPO, MDA: ( $\mu$ M/l), TNF- $\alpha$  (pg/ml). Data are means $\pm$ SEM. \*:  $p<0.05$ , statistically significant. IL6: Interleukin 6; NO: Nitric oxide; NFkB: Nuclear kappa-B; PDGF: Platelet-derived growth factor; TNF-a: Tumor necrosis factor alfa; MDA: Malondialdehyde; MPO: Myeloperoxidase.

**Table 4.** The analysis of intestinal tissue sampling (mean-standard deviation), (pg/g tissue)

Tissue	t_IL6	t_NO	t_NFkB	t_PDGF	t_TNF- $\alpha$	t_MDA	t_MPO
Saline rectal	130.88 $\pm$ 61.79	55.68 $\pm$ 5.33	1.83 $\pm$ 0.68	1.83 $\pm$ 0.95	99.56 $\pm$ 33.21	1.11 $\pm$ 0.51	12.55 $\pm$ 5.67
Curcumin oral	98.48 $\pm$ 56.79	33.24 $\pm$ 11.09	1.50 $\pm$ 0.39	1.20 $\pm$ 0.66	129.53 $\pm$ 39.46	0.94 $\pm$ 0.43	10.51 $\pm$ 4.62
Curcumin rectal	197.74 $\pm$ 53.88	60.33 $\pm$ 27.19	3.22 $\pm$ 1.11	2.92 $\pm$ 0.55	243.54 $\pm$ 92.06	1.55 $\pm$ 0.22	18.64 $\pm$ 5.85
Sham	339.09 $\pm$ 122.03	71.59 $\pm$ 17.63	3.77 $\pm$ 0.69	4.14 $\pm$ 2.18	234.36 $\pm$ 47.89	1.88 $\pm$ 0.92	21.43 $\pm$ 2.83
Corn oil oral	203.51 $\pm$ 43.02	51.65 $\pm$ 13.36	2.65 $\pm$ 0.32	1.85 $\pm$ 0.59	188.44 $\pm$ 28.55	1.31 $\pm$ 0.28	14.12 $\pm$ 1.22
Corn rectal	124.11 $\pm$ 19.59	43.49 $\pm$ 17.99	2.13 $\pm$ 0.45	1.41 $\pm$ 0.10	104.82 $\pm$ 17.44	1.11 $\pm$ 0.19	18.12 $\pm$ 8.18
P*	<0.001	0.003	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.013	0.003

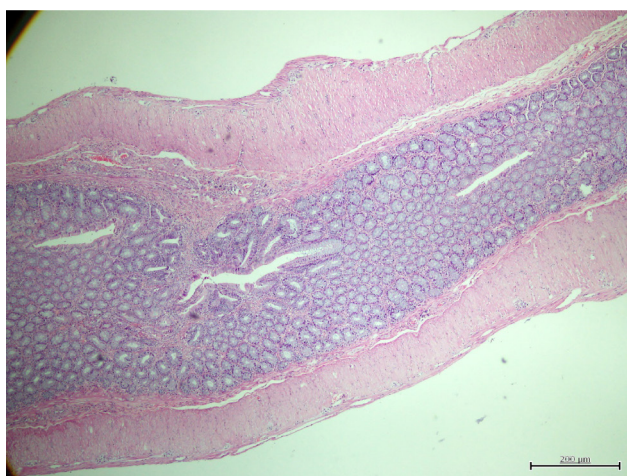
IL6: Interleukin 6; NO: Nitric oxide; NFkB: Nuclear kappa-B; PDGF: Platelet-derived growth factor; TNF-a: Tumor necrosis factor alfa; MDA: Malondialdehyde; MPO: Myeloperoxidase.

**Table 5.** The histopathological comparison of groups, mean (min–max)

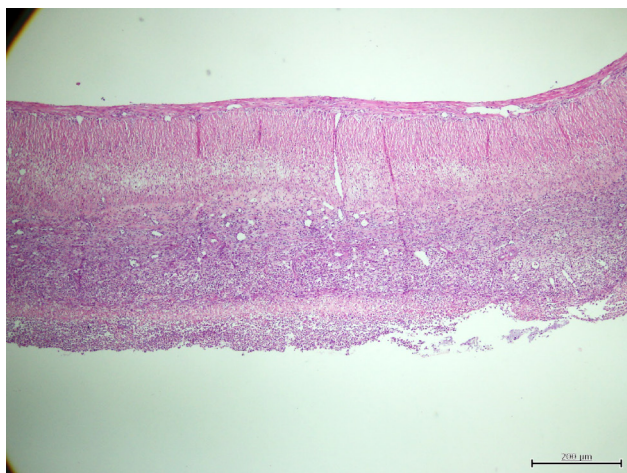
Histopathological	Macroscopic damage score	Microscopic damage score	Inflammatory cell infiltration	Crypt abscess	Ulcer	Granuloma
Saline rectal	3 (2–4)	8 (4–9)	3 (2–3)	1 (0–2)	2 (1–2)	2 (1–2)
Curcumin oral	2 (1–4)	7 (4–9)	3 (2–3)	1 (0–2)	2 (1–2)	2 (1–2)
Curcumin rectal	1 (0–3)	1 (0–9)	1 (0–3)	0 (0–3)	0 (0–2)	1 (0–2)
Sham	0 (0–1)	0 (0–9)	0 (0–2)	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)	0 (0–0)
Corn oil	3 (1–4)	8 (3–9)	3 (1–3)	2 (0–3)	2 (0–2)	2 (0–2)
Corn rectal	2 (1–4)	4 (3–9)	2 (1–3)	1 (0–3)	0 (0–2)	5 (0–2)
P*	0.001	0.003	0.003	0.105	0.005	0.006

\*: p<0.05, statistically significant.

groups than the sham group. The inflammatory cell accumulation and ulceration were significantly higher in the curcumin oral group than the sham group (p=0.019/p=0.009) (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the corn oil oral and saline rectal groups' inflammatory cell accumulation was significantly higher than the



**Figure 1.** The rectal curcumin administration; normal intestinal tissue (HEX4).



**Figure 2.** The administration of oral curcumin; the area of ulcer (HEX4).

sham group (p=0.031/p=0.011). However, there was no statistical significance. The inflammatory cell, ulcer and granuloma formation of the curcumin rectal group had slightly decreased levels comparing to the corn oil and curcumin groups except for the sham group. Granuloma formation of saline rectal (p=0.049) and curcumin oral (p=0.008) group was significantly higher than the sham group. In addition to that, the mucosal disruption of the sham group was significantly lower than the curcumin oral (p=0.04) and saline rectal (p=0.004) groups.

## DISCUSSION

This study aims to investigate the efficacy of different treatment methods like oral or rectal routes of the curcumin medication for IBD model. The TNBS colitis had granulomas with infiltration of inflammatory cells over the intestinal layers. Similar to our study, the saline rectal group has more than other groups. Although there are various reagents (such as DSS, and acetic acid) to contribute the colitis experiments, TNBS has the useful potential in the clinic for the management of the human diseases.<sup>[19–21]</sup> The outcomes of curcumin on chemically induced colitis experiments have been precisely determined in the literature. However, it is not established yet, which therapy regimen (oral or rectal) is efficient for the treatment modalities of colitis. The initiation and maintenance of inflammation in IBD have been established by NO overproduction and upregulation of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS). Furthermore, the Nuclear kappa-B (NF-kB) has been primarily activated by oxidative stress. Additionally, TNF-α has a potential initiation for NF-kB in monocytes and then, IL-6 is expressed by the regulation of NF-kB.<sup>[22]</sup>

The anti-inflammatory effects of curcumin are predominantly expressed by the inhibition of the pathways and mediators, such as NF-kB and TNF-α initiated oxidative stress. The treatment of curcumin has beneficial effects on decreasing the level of NO and MDA in the colonic mucosa.<sup>[22,23]</sup> According to our findings, we had similar outcomes in curcumin oral group when comparing to other groups for the levels of MPO, MDA, NO, IL-6, TNF-α, NF-kB. However, there was a dilemma; it was not statistically significant, but the macro-

scopic and microscopic damage scores of the curcumin rectal group decreased more than the curcumin oral and corn oil groups. Although the decrease of IL-6 in the curcumin oral group was higher than the curcumin rectal group, the microscopic damage score suggesting that topical-rectal administration of curcumin might have some more beneficial effects on anti-inflammatory efficiency.

The severity of the inflammatory injuries has been evaluated by morphological injury and histological variations. One of the markers of the acute inflammatory response is MPO that accomplishes the activity of neutrophils. The elevated MPO levels of the acetic acid-induced colitis were reduced by the treatment of curcumin correlated with the histopathological findings, such as inflammatory cell infiltration.<sup>[2,24,25]</sup> However, we had discordance in the histopathological and the colon samples for MPO levels when comparing oral and rectal routes of curcumin treatment. The scores of histopathological findings were lower in curcumin rectal; on the other hand, the tissue samples were lower in the curcumin oral rectal groups when comparing MPO. Additionally, our oral curcumin therapy group MPO results were concordant with the findings of enema containing study by Kadri and et al.<sup>[26]</sup> Maybe the longer study periods are needed to evaluate the different types of administration of curcumin therapies or scoring systems for the pathological findings.

MDA is a good indicator of the oxidative stress and the lipid peroxidation process. The colonic MDA is in the increasing range of both human and animal models for ulcerative colitis, similar to our current study results.<sup>[24]</sup> Moreover, we evaluated the treatment of curcumin, causing the reduction of MDA levels in the rats with colitis like other studies. This conclusion could be one of the results of the reduction in neutrophil infiltration by curcumin effects in the colonic samples.<sup>[2,10]</sup>

The anti-inflammatory effects of curcumin have an influence on the treatment of colitis related to the inhibition of NF-kB pathways and its antioxidant contents. The cellular signaling pathways induced apoptosis are containing the Bcl-2 family of proto-oncogenes, transcription factor NF-kB and TNF- $\alpha$ .<sup>[2]</sup> There is a study related to ROS-induced cytotoxicity, including the oxidants and epithelial apoptosis by inhibiting the neutrophil and macrophages in the TNF- $\alpha$  colitis model.<sup>[27]</sup> Controversially, in our study, it was not exactly well-matched with these findings. The tissue NF-kB and TNF- $\alpha$  levels of the curcumin oral group was lower than other groups, and it was not statistically significant. However, the histopathological correlation was observed by the curcumin rectal group. Unlike some studies,<sup>[2,27]</sup> we had a deficiency to succeed at the finding of the epithelial cell apoptosis by Bcl-2 immunohistochemical dye in which there was no meaningful evaluation performed by our pathologist to mention.

During inflammatory reactions, some of the reactive oxygen species (ROS) production generated when PDGF binds to its

receptor and oxidized a cysteine residue in the active site of phosphates following the transduction of PDGF-signaling.<sup>[28]</sup> The phosphatase inhibition and reduction of PDGF signaling occurred as a result of anti-oxidant effects.<sup>[29]</sup> Due to the antioxidant properties of curcumin, the PDGF stimulated ROS generation in cultured VSMC was inhibited by the effects of both curcumin and bisdemethoxy curcumin that was the differential effects of these compounds on PDGF-signaling.<sup>[28,29]</sup> When we concerned about the similar pathways, the biochemical findings that we obtained from our experiment, was correlated with the literature. The amount of PDGF for the curcumin oral group was  $1.20 \pm 0.66$  (mean-standard error) lower than the other groups. However, histopathologically, the curcumin rectal group showed more improvement among the inflammatory changes considering the influence of the anti-oxidant effects of curcumin. Furthermore, it was reported that curcumin has some analogs and nano-formulations properties for potential enhancement of their therapeutic administrations.<sup>[22]</sup> That could be considered as a beneficial point for further improvements of any doses and routes in curcumin treatments like our study. Despite its various alterations in results of experimental studies, there is a wide range of clinical applications of curcumin in some case series and small clinical trials for every stage of IBD follow up, such as Hanai et al.<sup>[8,22]</sup> In the study of Hanai et al.,<sup>[8]</sup> they had safe and effective clinical conclusions of the curcumin treatment for ulcerative colitis patients, besides its undetermined dosages and combined components of medication for curcumin administration. Especially, that is the primary start point of view of our study to figure out the different dosages and the application routes comparing the literature.

In conclusion, the results of this study suggest that substantially the curcumin may be considered to improve the histopathological findings on the rectal route and the biochemical antioxidant and anti-inflammatory assessments of the oral route. Although we did not perform both types of administration and additionally different doses compared to literature, there were no exact solutions determined mainly for clinical usage. As far as we concerned, further research with different doses may be beneficial to undertake the therapeutic components of curcumin into clinical use.

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DENEYSEL ÇALIŞMA - ÖZET

## Kurkumin'in PDGF ekspresyonu ve NF-kappa B üzerindeki etkisi: TNBS kolit modeli

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**AMAÇ:** Kurkumin, nükleer faktör kappa B'nin (NF-kappa B) güçlü bir inhibitörü olduğu bilinen antioksidan ve antienflamatuvar bir moleküldür. Kurkumin'in 2,4,6-trinitrobenzen sülfonik asit (TNBS) ile indüklenen kolit modeli üzerindeki etkisini araştırmayı amaçladık.

**GEREÇ VE YÖNTEM:** Anestezi altında kolit indüksiyonundan sonra, 42 sıçan altı gruba ayrıldı; kurkumin oral grup, kurkumin (20 mg/kg); mısır yağı oral grubu, mısır yağı (20 mg/kg) mide gavajı yoluyla, kurkumin rektal grubu, kurkumin; mısır yağı rektal grubu, mısır yağı. Kontrol grubuna 1 mL salin solüsyonu (%0.9 NaCl) rektal yolla uygulandı. Sham grubunda sadece rektal kateterizasyon yapıldı. Yedi gün sonunda, histopatolojik inceleme ve MPO, MDA, NO, PDGF, IL-6, TNF-alfa, NF-kappa B için kan ve bağırsak doku örnekleri alındı.

**BULGULAR:** Makroskobik hasar skoru, kurkumin oral, mısır yağı oral ve salin gruplarında sham grubuna göre anlamlı olarak yüksek bulundu ( $p<0.05$ ). Gruplar arasındaki anlamlı fark, IL-6, NO, NF-kB, PDGF, TNF- $\alpha$ , MDA, MPO intestinal dokunun biyokimyasal analizinde değerlendirildi ( $p<0.05$ ). Kurkumin oral, kurkumin rektal, sham, mısır yağı oral, mısır yağı rektal gruplarında NF-kB kan seviyeleri, salin rektal grubuna göre anlamlı olarak arttı ( $p=0.001$ ). Mısır yağı rektal ve kontrol grubunun NF-kB serum seviyeleri ( $p\leq 0.001$ ) sham grubundan düşük bulundu ( $p=0.012$ ).

**TARTIŞMA:** Kurkumin'in, NF-kB sinyal yolundaki düzenleyici etkisi muhtemelen iyileştirici özelliği ile gelecekteki çalışmalarda tek başına kolite karşı veya konvansiyonel anti-kolitik tedaviler de kombinasyon halinde düşünülmelidir.

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Antienflamatuvar; anti-oksidan; kolit; kurkumin; NF-kB.

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