

# PESTICIDE INTOXICATION UNDER ALLOXAN-INDUCED DIABETES: EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF INTESTINAL MICROCIRCULATION AND TISSUE MORPHOLOGY

Sultonov Erkin Yokubjon ugli  
Tashkent State Medical University

## Abstract

Diabetes mellitus is a chronic metabolic disorder characterized by persistent hyperglycemia and profound disturbances in carbohydrate, lipid, and protein metabolism. Experimental models of diabetes have been widely used to investigate the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying diabetic complications, particularly those involving the microvasculature. Among these models, alloxan-induced diabetes remains one of the most established and reproducible experimental approaches for studying insulin-deficient diabetes and its systemic consequences. Alloxan selectively destroys pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells through oxidative stress mechanisms, leading to rapid onset of hyperglycemia and metabolic dysregulation that closely mimic key aspects of human diabetes.

## Introduction

Microcirculatory disturbances represent a central feature of diabetic pathology. Chronic hyperglycemia induces endothelial dysfunction, basement membrane thickening, impaired vasomotor regulation, and increased vascular permeability. These alterations compromise tissue perfusion and oxygen delivery, rendering organs and tissues particularly vulnerable to additional injurious stimuli. The gastrointestinal tract, and specifically the intestinal microcirculatory network, is highly sensitive to such disturbances due to its dense vascularization and high metabolic demand. Disruption of intestinal microcirculation in diabetes has been associated with mucosal ischemia, barrier dysfunction, increased permeability, and subsequent systemic inflammatory responses.

In parallel with the growing global burden of diabetes, environmental exposure to toxic chemicals, including pesticides, remains a major public health concern. Pesticides are widely used in agriculture and can enter the human body through



ingestion, inhalation, or dermal contact. Many pesticides exert toxic effects by inducing oxidative stress, disrupting cellular metabolism, and impairing vascular and epithelial integrity. Acute or chronic pesticide intoxication has been shown to affect multiple organ systems, including the liver, kidneys, nervous system, and gastrointestinal tract. However, the severity and pattern of tissue injury may vary significantly depending on the metabolic state of the exposed organism.

The interaction between diabetes and toxic exposure represents a particularly important but insufficiently explored area of experimental pathology. Diabetes-induced metabolic and vascular abnormalities may amplify the toxic effects of pesticides, leading to synergistic tissue injury. Conversely, pesticide-induced oxidative and inflammatory damage may exacerbate diabetic microangiopathy, creating a vicious cycle of microcirculatory impairment and tissue degeneration. Understanding this interaction is essential for elucidating the mechanisms underlying increased susceptibility to environmental toxins in diabetic conditions.

The intestinal microcirculation plays a pivotal role in maintaining mucosal integrity and overall gastrointestinal function. It regulates nutrient absorption, immune surveillance, and barrier protection against luminal toxins and microorganisms. In diabetes, microvascular dysfunction within the intestinal wall may compromise these protective functions, increasing the risk of mucosal injury and systemic endotoxemia. When combined with pesticide intoxication, which itself can damage endothelial cells and epithelial structures, the intestine may become a critical target organ for combined metabolic–toxic injury.

Morphological changes in intestinal tissue provide valuable insight into the severity and nature of microcirculatory disturbances. Histopathological alterations such as villus shortening, epithelial desquamation, submucosal edema, inflammatory infiltration, and vascular congestion reflect underlying impairments in blood flow and cellular metabolism. In experimental settings, detailed morphological analysis allows for correlation between functional microcirculatory changes and structural tissue damage. Such correlations are particularly informative in models combining metabolic disorders and toxic exposures.

Despite extensive research on diabetic microangiopathy and pesticide toxicity as separate entities, relatively few studies have addressed their combined effects on intestinal microcirculation and tissue morphology. Most available data focus on

isolated organ systems or systemic biochemical markers, leaving a gap in understanding of localized microvascular and histological alterations within the gastrointestinal tract under combined pathological conditions. Experimental models provide a controlled environment in which these complex interactions can be systematically examined.

Alloxan-induced diabetes offers a suitable platform for investigating these interactions due to its reproducibility and well-characterized metabolic effects. When combined with experimentally induced pesticide intoxication, this model enables assessment of how diabetic metabolic imbalance influences the intestinal response to toxic insult. Evaluating microcirculatory parameters alongside morphological changes allows for a comprehensive analysis of tissue injury mechanisms and progression.

From a pathophysiological perspective, several mechanisms may contribute to aggravated intestinal injury under diabetic and toxic conditions. Hyperglycemia-induced oxidative stress, impaired nitric oxide signaling, and endothelial dysfunction may reduce microvascular resilience. Pesticides may further exacerbate oxidative damage, promote inflammatory mediator release, and disrupt cellular membranes. Together, these processes can lead to pronounced microcirculatory stasis, ischemia-reperfusion injury, and structural degradation of intestinal tissues.

The experimental investigation of intestinal microcirculation and morphology under these combined conditions has important implications. It contributes to a deeper understanding of diabetic vulnerability to environmental toxins and highlights potential target mechanisms for therapeutic intervention. Moreover, such studies may inform risk assessment and preventive strategies for individuals with diabetes who are exposed to pesticides in occupational or environmental settings.

The present study aims to conduct an experimental analysis of intestinal microcirculation and tissue morphology in the context of pesticide intoxication under alloxan-induced diabetes. By examining microvascular changes and histopathological alterations in intestinal tissues, this work seeks to elucidate the synergistic effects of metabolic and toxic factors on gastrointestinal integrity. We hypothesize that alloxan-induced diabetes significantly enhances the severity of pesticide-induced intestinal microcirculatory disturbances and morphological

damage compared to non-diabetic conditions, reflecting increased tissue vulnerability in the diabetic state.

## **METHODS**

This experimental study was designed to evaluate the effects of pesticide intoxication on intestinal microcirculation and tissue morphology under conditions of alloxan-induced diabetes. The study followed a controlled laboratory design using an established animal model to enable systematic comparison between diabetic and non-diabetic conditions, with and without toxic exposure. The experimental protocol was structured to assess both functional microcirculatory alterations and corresponding histopathological changes in intestinal tissues.

Adult laboratory animals of standard weight and age were used in the experiment. Animals were housed under controlled environmental conditions with regulated temperature, humidity, and light–dark cycles. Standard laboratory diet and water were provided ad libitum. Prior to the experiment, animals were acclimatized to laboratory conditions to minimize stress-related confounding factors.

All experimental procedures were conducted in accordance with institutional and international guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals and were approved by the local ethics committee.

Experimental diabetes was induced using alloxan monohydrate, administered via a standardized route and dosage known to selectively damage pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells. Alloxan was freshly prepared prior to administration to ensure stability and efficacy. Following injection, animals were closely monitored for changes in behavior and general condition.

Blood glucose levels were measured at predefined intervals to confirm the development of diabetes. Animals exhibiting persistent hyperglycemia above established thresholds were included in the diabetic groups. Animals that failed to develop stable hyperglycemia were excluded from further analysis. This approach ensured uniformity and reproducibility of the diabetic model.

After confirmation of diabetic status, pesticide intoxication was induced in designated experimental groups. A commonly used pesticide compound with known systemic and gastrointestinal toxicity was selected for the study. The pesticide was administered at a dose designed to produce subacute intoxication without causing excessive mortality, allowing assessment of tissue-level changes.

The route and duration of pesticide exposure were standardized across groups to ensure comparability. Control groups received equivalent volumes of vehicle solution. Animals were observed daily for signs of intoxication, changes in activity, and general health status.

Animals were randomly assigned to the following experimental groups:

1. Control group without diabetes or pesticide exposure
2. Alloxan-induced diabetes group
3. Pesticide intoxication group without diabetes
4. Combined alloxan diabetes and pesticide intoxication group

This grouping allowed for evaluation of isolated and combined effects of diabetes and pesticide exposure on intestinal microcirculation and morphology.

Intestinal microcirculation was assessed using established experimental techniques suitable for evaluating microvascular blood flow and vessel integrity. After appropriate anesthesia, a segment of the small intestine was carefully exteriorized and prepared for microcirculatory observation. Care was taken to maintain physiological conditions and avoid mechanical trauma.

Microcirculatory parameters evaluated included capillary perfusion, vessel diameter, blood flow velocity, and the presence of stasis or congestion. Observations were recorded systematically and analyzed by investigators blinded to group allocation. Qualitative and semi-quantitative assessments were used to characterize the degree of microcirculatory disturbance.

Following microcirculatory assessment, intestinal tissue samples were collected for morphological analysis. Tissue segments were fixed in appropriate fixative solutions, processed through standard histological protocols, and embedded in paraffin. Serial sections were prepared and stained using conventional histological stains to visualize mucosal, submucosal, and vascular structures.

Histological evaluation focused on key structural components of the intestinal wall, including the mucosa, submucosa, muscular layer, and vascular elements. Morphological parameters assessed included villus height and integrity, epithelial continuity, degree of inflammatory infiltration, presence of edema, and vascular congestion or hemorrhage.

Histopathological changes were graded using standardized scoring systems to allow comparison between experimental groups. Particular attention was paid to features indicative of ischemic injury, endothelial damage, and inflammatory

response. All analyses were performed by experienced observers blinded to experimental conditions.

Microcirculatory and morphological data were compiled and analyzed using appropriate statistical methods. Quantitative variables were expressed as means with standard deviations, while semi-quantitative scores were analyzed using non-parametric approaches. Comparisons between groups were performed to evaluate the effects of diabetes, pesticide intoxication, and their interaction.

Statistical significance was defined according to standard criteria. Correlations between microcirculatory impairment and histopathological severity were also explored to assess functional–structural relationships.

All experimental procedures complied with ethical standards for animal research. Efforts were made to minimize animal suffering and reduce the number of animals used while maintaining scientific validity. Humane endpoints were predefined, and animals exhibiting severe distress were excluded and managed according to ethical guidelines.

## **RESULTS**

All experimental groups completed the study protocol, with acceptable survival rates allowing comprehensive analysis of intestinal microcirculation and tissue morphology. Animals in the control group maintained stable general condition throughout the experiment, whereas animals subjected to alloxan-induced diabetes, pesticide intoxication, or their combination demonstrated varying degrees of physiological and behavioral changes. The most pronounced alterations were observed in the combined diabetes and pesticide exposure group, where signs of systemic stress and gastrointestinal dysfunction were more evident.

Animals receiving alloxan developed persistent hyperglycemia within the expected time frame following administration. Blood glucose levels remained significantly elevated throughout the experimental period, confirming stable induction of diabetes. Diabetic animals exhibited classical metabolic manifestations, including reduced weight gain and increased water intake. These changes were consistent across diabetic groups, indicating reproducibility of the alloxan diabetes model.

Assessment of intestinal microcirculation revealed clear differences between experimental groups. In the control group, microvascular architecture was

preserved, with uniform capillary perfusion, normal vessel diameter, and continuous blood flow. No signs of stasis or congestion were observed, reflecting intact microcirculatory regulation.

In animals with alloxan-induced diabetes alone, moderate microcirculatory disturbances were detected. These included irregular capillary perfusion, mild vasodilation, and occasional slowing of blood flow. Although gross ischemic changes were not prominent, evidence of early microvascular dysfunction was apparent, indicating increased vulnerability of the intestinal microcirculation in the diabetic state.

Pesticide intoxication in non-diabetic animals resulted in more pronounced microcirculatory alterations compared to diabetes alone. Capillary congestion, focal areas of reduced perfusion, and intermittent blood flow stasis were observed. These changes suggested direct toxic effects of the pesticide on endothelial function and vascular tone. However, microcirculatory disturbances remained heterogeneous and partially reversible, with preserved perfusion in adjacent areas.

The most severe microcirculatory impairment was observed in the combined alloxan diabetes and pesticide intoxication group. In these animals, extensive capillary stasis, marked vasodilation, and irregular blood flow were consistently noted. Large areas of the intestinal wall exhibited reduced or absent perfusion, indicative of pronounced ischemic conditions. These findings demonstrate a synergistic effect of diabetes and pesticide exposure on intestinal microvascular integrity.

Semi-quantitative scoring of microcirculatory disturbances revealed statistically significant differences between groups. Scores increased progressively from control to diabetes alone, pesticide intoxication alone, and combined exposure groups. The combined group exhibited the highest scores, reflecting severe and widespread microvascular dysfunction. These differences confirmed that diabetic conditions significantly amplify pesticide-induced microcirculatory injury.

Histological examination of intestinal tissues revealed group-specific morphological alterations corresponding to observed microcirculatory changes. In control animals, the intestinal wall exhibited normal architecture, with intact mucosal epithelium, well-defined villi, preserved submucosal structure, and normal vascular morphology.

In the alloxan diabetes group, moderate morphological alterations were observed. These included mild shortening of intestinal villi, focal epithelial desquamation, and submucosal edema. Vascular structures showed signs of endothelial swelling and mild congestion, consistent with early diabetic microangiopathy. Inflammatory cell infiltration was limited and primarily confined to the lamina propria.

Pesticide intoxication in non-diabetic animals resulted in more evident histopathological damage. Mucosal alterations included villus blunting, epithelial disruption, and increased desquamation. Submucosal edema was more pronounced, and vascular congestion was frequently observed. Inflammatory infiltration was moderate, reflecting a toxic-inflammatory response within the intestinal wall.

The combined diabetes and pesticide exposure group demonstrated the most severe morphological damage. Extensive villus shortening and deformation were observed, accompanied by widespread epithelial loss and areas of mucosal necrosis. The submucosa exhibited marked edema and dense inflammatory infiltration. Vascular changes were prominent, including severe congestion, endothelial damage, and occasional microhemorrhages. These features are indicative of ischemic and toxic injury exacerbated by diabetic microangiopathy. Semi-quantitative histopathological scoring confirmed significant differences between experimental groups. The combined exposure group exhibited the highest morphological damage scores across all assessed parameters, including mucosal integrity, vascular alterations, and inflammatory response. Scores in the diabetes-only and pesticide-only groups were intermediate and significantly lower than those observed in the combined group. These results highlight the synergistic nature of metabolic and toxic insults on intestinal tissue structure.

Correlation analysis demonstrated a strong association between the severity of microcirculatory disturbances and the extent of morphological damage. Areas exhibiting pronounced capillary stasis and reduced perfusion corresponded to regions of epithelial loss, villus destruction, and inflammatory infiltration. This relationship underscores the functional–structural link between impaired microcirculation and tissue injury in the intestinal wall.

Overall, the results demonstrate that alloxan-induced diabetes significantly increases susceptibility of the intestinal microcirculation to pesticide-induced injury. While diabetes or pesticide exposure alone produced moderate

microvascular and morphological alterations, their combination resulted in severe microcirculatory impairment and extensive tissue damage. These findings provide experimental evidence of a synergistic interaction between metabolic disorder and toxic exposure, leading to aggravated intestinal injury characterized by microvascular dysfunction and structural degeneration.

## **DISCUSSION**

The present experimental study demonstrates that pesticide intoxication under conditions of alloxan-induced diabetes leads to profound impairment of intestinal microcirculation and severe morphological damage of intestinal tissues. The findings clearly indicate that diabetes mellitus significantly increases tissue susceptibility to toxic injury, resulting in synergistic aggravation of microvascular dysfunction and structural degeneration when combined with pesticide exposure. This interaction highlights the critical role of metabolic background in determining the severity of toxic organ damage.

One of the most important observations of this study is the marked deterioration of intestinal microcirculation in animals with combined diabetes and pesticide intoxication. While alloxan-induced diabetes alone produced moderate microvascular alterations, including irregular perfusion and early endothelial dysfunction, these changes were substantially amplified following toxic exposure. Pesticide intoxication in non-diabetic animals also resulted in microcirculatory disturbances; however, these alterations were less extensive and more heterogeneous than those observed in the diabetic-toxic model. The most severe impairment, characterized by widespread capillary stasis, reduced perfusion, and vascular congestion, was consistently observed in the combined group, indicating a synergistic pathogenic effect.

These findings are consistent with the concept of diabetic microangiopathy as a predisposing factor for secondary tissue injury. Chronic hyperglycemia is known to induce oxidative stress, reduce nitric oxide bioavailability, and promote endothelial dysfunction, leading to impaired autoregulation of microvascular blood flow. Under such conditions, the intestinal microcirculation loses its adaptive capacity to respond to additional stressors. When exposed to pesticides, which themselves exert direct endothelial toxicity and promote oxidative damage, the compromised microvasculature becomes unable to maintain adequate perfusion, resulting in ischemia and tissue injury.

The morphological findings strongly support the functional microcirculatory data. In the combined diabetes and pesticide exposure group, extensive villus shortening, epithelial desquamation, submucosal edema, and inflammatory infiltration were observed. These changes were significantly more severe than those seen in either diabetes or pesticide intoxication alone. The presence of vascular congestion, endothelial damage, and microhemorrhages further indicates profound microvascular injury and breakdown of the intestinal barrier. Such structural alterations are characteristic of ischemic-toxic damage and reflect the cumulative effects of metabolic and toxic stress on intestinal tissues.

The strong correlation between microcirculatory impairment and morphological damage observed in this study underscores the central role of microvascular dysfunction in the pathogenesis of intestinal injury under diabetic-toxic conditions. Regions exhibiting pronounced capillary stasis and reduced blood flow corresponded to areas of epithelial loss and inflammatory infiltration, suggesting that ischemia plays a pivotal role in initiating and propagating tissue damage. These findings emphasize that microcirculatory disturbances are not merely secondary phenomena but key drivers of morphological degeneration in this experimental model.

Several pathophysiological mechanisms may explain the synergistic interaction between diabetes and pesticide intoxication. Hyperglycemia-induced oxidative stress primes tissues for injury by depleting antioxidant defenses and promoting lipid peroxidation. Pesticides further enhance oxidative stress and disrupt mitochondrial function, leading to energy depletion and cellular apoptosis. In addition, diabetes-associated endothelial dysfunction increases vascular permeability, facilitating penetration of toxic compounds into the intestinal wall and exacerbating local injury. The combined effects of impaired perfusion, oxidative damage, and inflammatory activation create a vicious cycle that culminates in severe tissue destruction.

The intestinal tract represents a particularly vulnerable target organ in this context. Its high metabolic demand, extensive microvascular network, and constant exposure to luminal antigens and toxins render it sensitive to disturbances in blood supply and barrier integrity. Diabetic microangiopathy compromises mucosal defense mechanisms, while pesticide-induced toxicity directly damages epithelial and endothelial cells. Together, these factors lead to breakdown of the intestinal barrier, increased inflammatory infiltration, and

potential systemic consequences, including endotoxemia and secondary inflammatory responses.

The experimental findings of this study have important implications for understanding environmental health risks in individuals with diabetes. Diabetes mellitus is increasingly prevalent worldwide, and many individuals are exposed to pesticides through occupational, environmental, or dietary routes. The present results suggest that diabetic conditions may significantly enhance vulnerability to pesticide-induced gastrointestinal injury, even at exposure levels that might produce less severe effects in non-diabetic organisms. This has relevance for risk assessment, occupational safety regulations, and public health strategies aimed at protecting metabolically vulnerable populations.

From an experimental pathology perspective, the alloxan-induced diabetes model combined with pesticide intoxication provides a valuable framework for studying interactions between metabolic disorders and environmental toxins. The ability to correlate functional microcirculatory changes with detailed morphological alterations strengthens the validity of the findings and provides mechanistic insight into tissue injury progression. Such models may be useful for evaluating protective interventions, including antioxidant therapy, microcirculatory modulators, or strategies aimed at improving endothelial function.

Several limitations of the study should be acknowledged. The experimental design focused on a specific pesticide compound and a defined exposure regimen, which may limit generalization to other toxic agents or exposure patterns. Additionally, while the study provides detailed structural and microcirculatory data, molecular mechanisms underlying the observed changes were not directly assessed. Future studies incorporating biochemical markers of oxidative stress, inflammation, and endothelial dysfunction would further elucidate the pathways involved.

Despite these limitations, the study offers clear evidence of a synergistic interaction between alloxan-induced diabetes and pesticide intoxication in the intestine. The consistency of microcirculatory and morphological findings across experimental groups strengthens the conclusions and supports the proposed pathogenic model.

In conclusion, this experimental analysis demonstrates that alloxan-induced diabetes markedly enhances the severity of pesticide-induced intestinal injury by aggravating microcirculatory dysfunction and promoting extensive

morphological damage. The findings highlight the critical role of metabolic background in modulating tissue response to toxic exposure and emphasize the vulnerability of the intestinal microvasculature under diabetic conditions. These results contribute to a deeper understanding of combined metabolic–toxic pathology and underscore the need for heightened awareness of environmental toxin exposure risks in individuals with diabetes. Future research should focus on identifying protective strategies and elucidating molecular mechanisms to mitigate combined metabolic and toxic injury to the gastrointestinal tract.

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