

# Therapeutic effect of bee venom formulation in the treatment of FMD viral infection: Preclinical and clinical evaluation

Amira M. Mansour<sup>1</sup>, Abir A. Elfiky<sup>2</sup>, Aly Fahmy<sup>3</sup>, Ayman Diab<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Biotechnology, October University for Modern Sciences and Arts, Egypt.

<sup>2</sup>Director of ANDI Coe in antivenom research, (VACSERA), Egypt.

<sup>3</sup>Head R&D Sector, (VACSERA), Egypt.

**Abstract-** Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) is one of the world's most important infectious animal diseases especially cloven-hooved livestock caused by picornavirus and responsible for huge global losses of livestock production and trade, as well as frequent and highly disruptive large-scale epidemics. Bee (*Apis mellifera*) venom therapy is an alternative form of healing to treat various diseases. Bee venom contains at least active components which have some pharmaceutical properties; the most significant components of bee venom which have antiviral properties like melittin, phospholipase A2 (PLA2) and Protease inhibitor. Melittin is main active component and the powerful stimulator of phospholipase A2 that destroys phospholipids and dissolves the cell membrane of the agent. Protease inhibitor inhibits the activity of different proteases like trypsin, chymotrypsin, plasmin, thrombin, thus decreasing inflammation. In this work, Egyptian bee venom (*Apis mellifera lamarckii* venom) was obtained from VACSERA used as a treatment against FMDV-O in Egypt. There are improvements in hematological, biochemical and histopathological tests, the clinical signs are decreased in the treatment period and the virus load is more significance decreases. So this study proved that the bee venom used as natural medicine has been developed to fulfill recent medical requirements without noticed side effects. Bees have been appreciated for their medicinal purposes as a treatment for many diseases and restoring the vitality of the body.

**Index Terms-** Foot-and-Mouth Disease, FMDV-O, Bee venom, *Apis mellifera lamarckii*, hematological, biochemical and histopathological.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is a disease listed in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code. FMD is a highly contagious viral disease of cloven-hooved animals with significant economic impact, in cattle and swine as well as sheep, camels and goats as well as more than 70 species of wild animals. All species of deer and antelope as well as elephant, and giraffe are susceptible to FMD. It is caused by picornavirus of the genus *Aphthovirus* Foot-and-mouth disease, there are seven immunologically distinct types of FMD viruses, A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2, SAT3 (South African Territories), and Asia1 (Grubman and Baxt, 2004), It causes damage to the epithelial cells around the mouth and feet, and the

mucous membrane lining the mouth and gut system. FMD virus enters the body through inhalation. FMD morbidity is high, but mortality is usually low in adult animals. In young animal's mortality can be high because the disease damages heart muscle cells. FMD also causes painful sores and is characterized by fever and blister-like sores on the tongue and lips, in the mouth, on the teats and between the hooves. The disease causes severe production losses and while the majority of affected animals recover, the disease often leaves them weakened and debilitated (Aftosa, F. (2014).

Bee venom is therapy which utilizes the application of bee venom to treat many different diseases. Bee venom contains at least 18 pharmacologically active components including various enzymes, peptides and amines. It is a complex mixture of proteins, peptides and enzymes low molecular components. Using these components which have antiviral and antibacterial properties such as phospholipase A2 (PLA2), melittin, apamin, mast cell degranulating peptide, histamine, and dopamine (Ali, 2012). It has long been used for the treatments of chronic inflammation (rheumatoid arthritis), skin disease and for pain relief in traditional medicine for thousands of years. The aim of the present study was to determine the possible alterations in haematological and biochemical and histopathological parameters in large and small animals with FMD and under the effect of bee venom.

## II. MATERIALS & METHODS

**Materials: Venom:** *Apis mellifera lamarckii* (Egyptian) venom. Provided from Honey Bee Keeping Department Agriculture Research Center – Egypt. **Virus:** Foot and Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV-O) Provided from Animal Health Institute –Egypt. **Animals:** Fifteen guinea Pigs (Duncken hurtly) and Twelve goats provided from Helwan Farm, VACERA – Egypt. **Blood samples:** From each animal (at time of bleeding) about 2 ml bloods were taken in vacutainers, containing EDTA. These samples were used for determining the hematological picture (erythron, leukon, and thrombon), and prothrombin time respectively. **Serum samples:** About 20 ml blood was taken simultaneously as before in vacutainers but without addition of any anticoagulant. The obtained serum was kept in a deep-freezer (at - 20°C) until used.it was used for determination of different blood chemistry, and immunological parameters.

## Methods: -

**Infection of tested animals by FMD virus:** The test group were injected subcutaneously in the foot pad by FMDV ( $1 \times 10^5$  dose TCID<sub>50</sub>) in guinea pig and ( $1 \times 10^{6.5}$  dose TCID<sub>50</sub>) in goats, both were kept under supervision for seven days till observed the clinical signs of FMD on animals which manifested by high temperature and vesicles formation in the foot pad and between the toes.

**Injection of bee venom solution as treatment in guinea pigs and goats:** Guinea pigs were divided to two groups (test and control) each consist of 15 animals. The control group will be kept far from the tested animals without any infection, Application of treatment will be done just appear the vesicles by injection of bee venom 0.2 ml/animal daily intradermal by recommended dose according to the animal weight for five days. Goats were divided to two groups (test and control) each consist of 6 animals. The control group will be kept far from the tested animals without any infection. Application of treatment will be done just appear the vesicles by injection of bee venom 4 ml/animal daily intradermal by recommended dose according to the animal weight for seven days.

### Collection of whole blood samples: -

Blood samples were collected from each tested animal into EDTA vacutainers. The samples were gently mixed immediately and put on ice bag till time of examination, and were used for **Hematological examination** (RBCs Count, Hematocrit value (PCV), Hemoglobin content, blood indices (MCV, MCH, MCHC, WBCs count, and platelets).

### Preparation of serum samples: -

Part of the blood samples was taken simultaneously into empty clean vacutainers without anticoagulant. Each blood sample was left to coagulant at room temperature till the clot retracted. The serum was removed by automated pipette and clarified by centrifugation at 3000 r.p.m. for 15 min. And clean non hemolysed serum samples were kept at -20 °C till time of analysis to be done directly after separation. And were used for Biochemical investigations (ALT, lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), and creatinine level)

**Histopathological examination:** Specimens like liver, kidney, and heart from guinea Pigs and goats in all experimental

groups were collected and fixed in neutral buffered formalin 10%, washed in tap water overnight and exposed to ascending concentration of ethanol (70%, 80, 90 and 100%), cleared in xylene and embedded in paraffin. Sections of the tissues (4-5  $\mu$  thick) were prepared and stained with hematoxylin and Eosin (**Bancroft et al, 1996**).

**Statistical analysis:** The obtained results were processed statistically according to **Snedecor and Cochran (1980)**, where minimum, maximum, mean value, standard deviation, standard error, and range were represented. Comparison between groups for significance was done by using T-test.

## III. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

### Results: -

**Preclinical evaluation of bee venom treatment against FMDV-O in guinea pigs: - Clinical signs observation:** The severity of the lesion and the heels condition of the animals were noticed and monitored during the treatment period. At the seventh day of infection, we begin noticed that gradual increasing in temperature of the animals manifested by redness of the eye as seen in (Photo-2). Appearance of clear inflammation of the foot pad manifested by redness and swelling in the foot pad as shown in (photo-3), and also between the toes as seen in (photo-1). At the end of treatment period, the animals were better than previous as seen in photo (3-C), the redness on the foot pad nearly disappear and febrile condition is completely cleared as seen in photo (3-C). There are another clinical signs of FMD in guinea pigs like increasing in temperature (fever) as appeared in table (1) and reduction in the body weight as shown in table (2). Also the virus titer was determined during the treatment period and found that the titer of virus at 7th day of treatment of bee venom was decreased to be disappeared and the final titer of virus was zero as seen in table (3). Different changes are seen in hematological and biochemical analysis during the treatment period revealed improvement of the animals gradually in compare with the infected cases at the beginning of the study as seen in (table 4,5) and (figures from 1 to 2).



Photo (1):

- A) - Shows the normal toes of guinea pig
- B) - Shows the infected toes of guinea pig with swelling between the toes.
- C) - Shows the treated toes of guinea pig

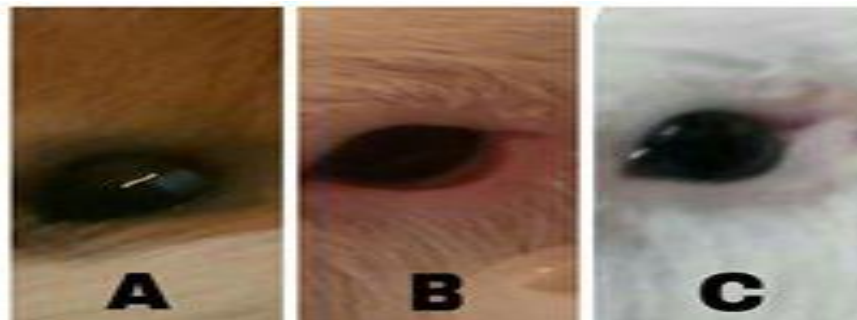


Photo (2):

- A) - Shows the normal eye of guinea pig
- B) - Shows the infected eye of guinea pig with redness around it
- C) - Shows the treated eye of guinea pig



Photo (3):

- A) - Shows the normal heel of guinea pig
- B) - Shows the infected heel of guinea pig with Severe redness and inflammation
- C) - Shows the treated heel of guinea pig

**Table (1): The temperature of Guinea pigs during infection of FMDV-O and treatment of bee venom.**

Normal temperature of animals	Temperature at the 7th day after infection (1 <sup>st</sup> day of treatment)	Temperature of treated animals at 3 <sup>th</sup> day	Temperature of treated animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day
35.9 ± 2.3 °C	38.8* ± 0.8 °C	37.5 ± 0.7°C	36 ± 0.6°C

**Table (2): The body weight of Guinea pigs during infection of FMDV-O and treatment of bee venom.**

Normal body weight of animals	Body weight of infected animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day	Body weight of treated animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day of treatment period
500 ± 50 gm.	460* ± 45 gm.	490 ± 49 gm.

**Table (3): The titer of FMDV-O in infected and treated guinea pigs:**

FMDV-O titer (infected)		FMDV-O titer (treated)			
1 <sup>st</sup> day of Infection titer	At the 7th day after infection (1st day of treatment)	At 3 <sup>rd</sup> day	At 7 <sup>th</sup> day		
			After 24 hrs	After 48 hrs	After 72 hrs
1×10 <sup>5</sup>	1×10 <sup>6</sup>	1×10 <sup>2.7**</sup>	1×10 <sup>1.7***</sup>	1×10 <sup>1.2***</sup>	0***

**Hematological examination of guinea pigs: -**

**Table (4): Hematological values of guinea pigs: -**

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Test 1 (after 7 days from infection)</b>	<b>Test 2 (at 3rd day of Treatment)</b>	<b>Test 3 (7th day of treatment)</b>
<b>Heamoglobin (g/dl)</b>	16.0 ±1.6	12.2 *±1.22	15.8 ±1.58	15.1 ± 1.51
<b>Red cell count (RBCS) (millions/cmm)</b>	5.5± 0.55	4.7±0.47	4.8±0.48	5.66± 0.566
<b>Haematocrit (PCV) (%)</b>	50.0 ±5	36.3*±3.63	45.0±4.3	43.0 ±4.3
<b>MCV (fl)</b>	90.9 ±9.09	77.2* ±7.72	89.6±8.96	85.5 ± 85.5
<b>MCH (pg)</b>	29.1 ±2.91	26.0*±2.6	29.2±2.9	30.0 ±3.3
<b>MCHC (%)</b>	32.0 ±3.2	33.8 ±3.38	32.6 ±3.26	33.7± 3.37
<b>Platelets count (T/cmm)</b>	333 ±33.3	310±33	316 ±31.6	313.8 ±31.38
<b>White cell count (WBCS) (Thousands/cmm)</b>	8.0 ±0.8	8.8 ±0.88	11.8 *±1.18	10.0**± 0.1
<b>Staff (%)</b>	3 ±0.3	3 ±0.3	2 ±0.2	2 ±0.2
<b>Segmented (Neutrophils) (%)</b>	60 ± 6	60 ±6	60 ±6	45* ±4.5
<b>Lymphocytes (%)</b>	30 ±3	30 ±3	30 ±3	45* ±4.5
<b>Monocytes (%)</b>	5 ±0.5	4 ±0.4	5 ±0.5	5 ±0.5
<b>Eosinophils (%)</b>	2 ±0.2	3 ±0.3	3 ±0.3	3 ±0.3
<b>Basophils (%)</b>	0 ±0	0 ±0	0 ±0	0 ±0

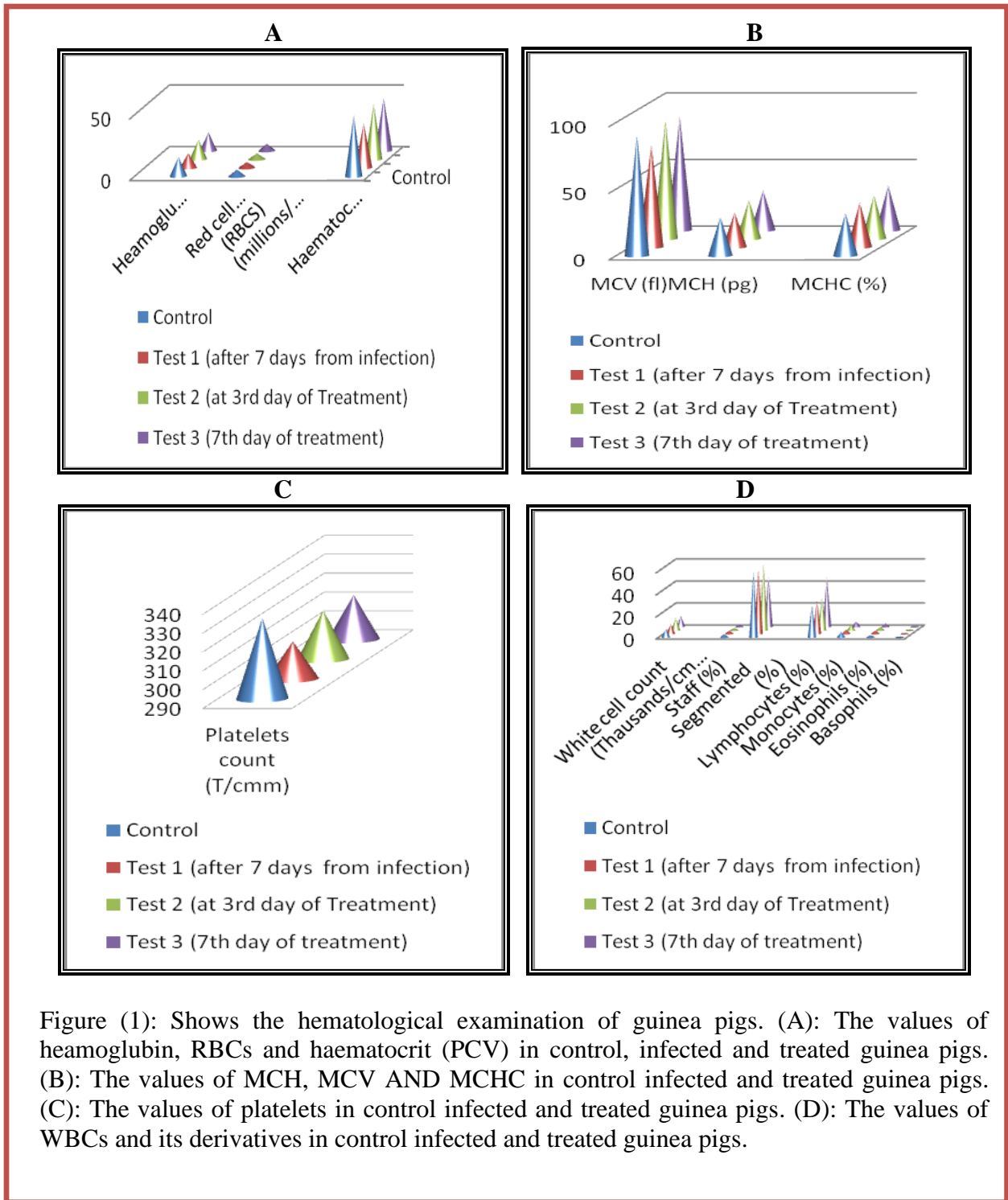
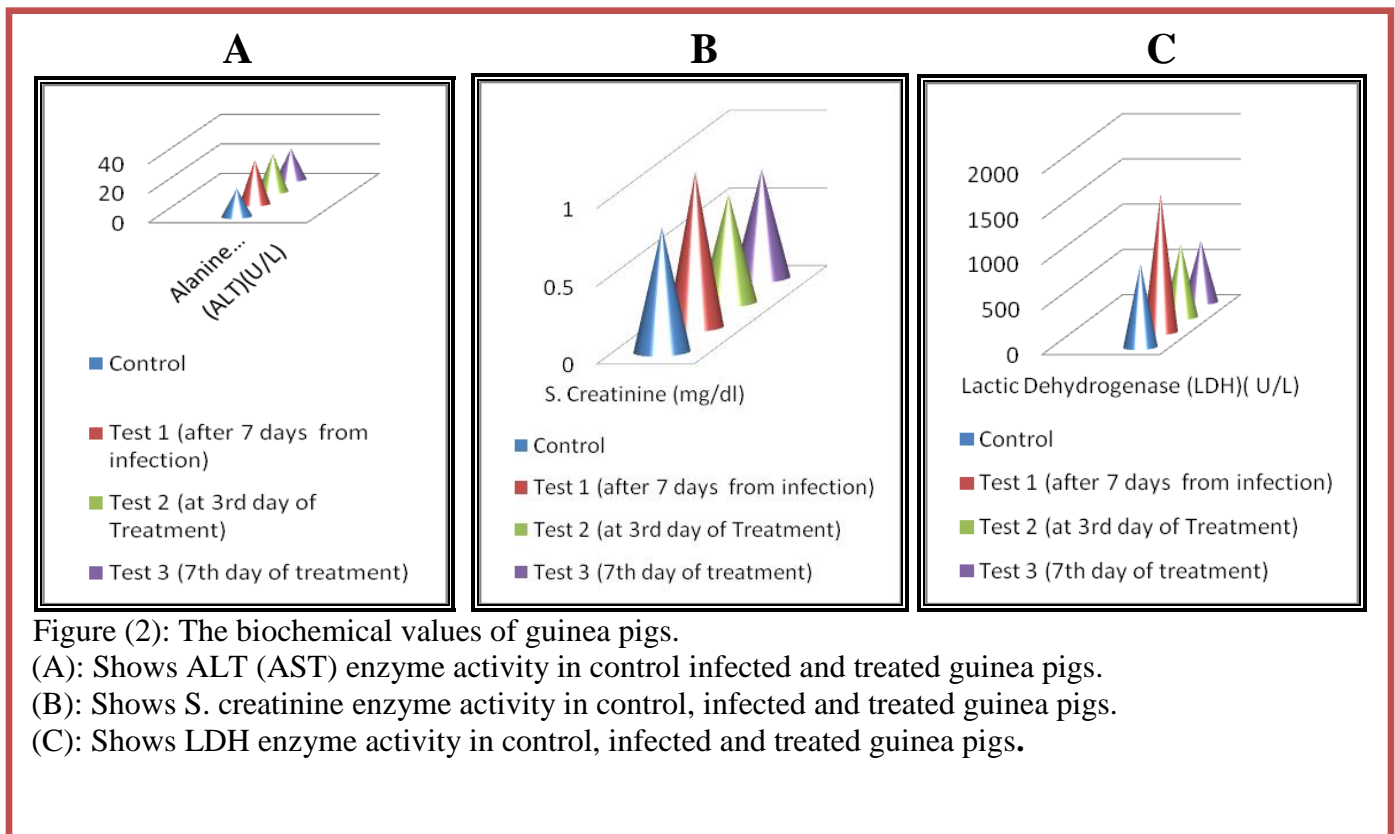


Figure (1): Shows the hematological examination of guinea pigs. (A): The values of heamoglobin, RBCs and haematocrit (PCV) in control, infected and treated guinea pigs. (B): The values of MCH, MCV AND MCHC in control infected and treated guinea pigs. (C): The values of platelets in control infected and treated guinea pigs. (D): The values of WBCs and its derivatives in control infected and treated guinea pigs.

**Biochemical examination of guinea pigs: -**

**Table (5): Enzyme activities in serum of guinea pigs: -**

Parameters	Control	Test 1 (after 7 days from infection)	Test 2 (at 3rd day of Treatment)	Test 3 (7th day of treatment)
<b>Alanine Transaminase (ALT)(U/L)</b>	19 ±1.9	30** ±3	26* ±2.6	21 ±2.1
<b>S. Creatinine (mg/dl)</b>	0.8± 0.08	1.0 ±0.1	0.7±0.07	0.7±0.07
<b>Lactic Dehydrogenase (LDH)(U/L)</b>	922 ±92.2	1531**± 153.1	810* ±81	683** ±68.3





**Histopathological examination of guinea pigs: -**

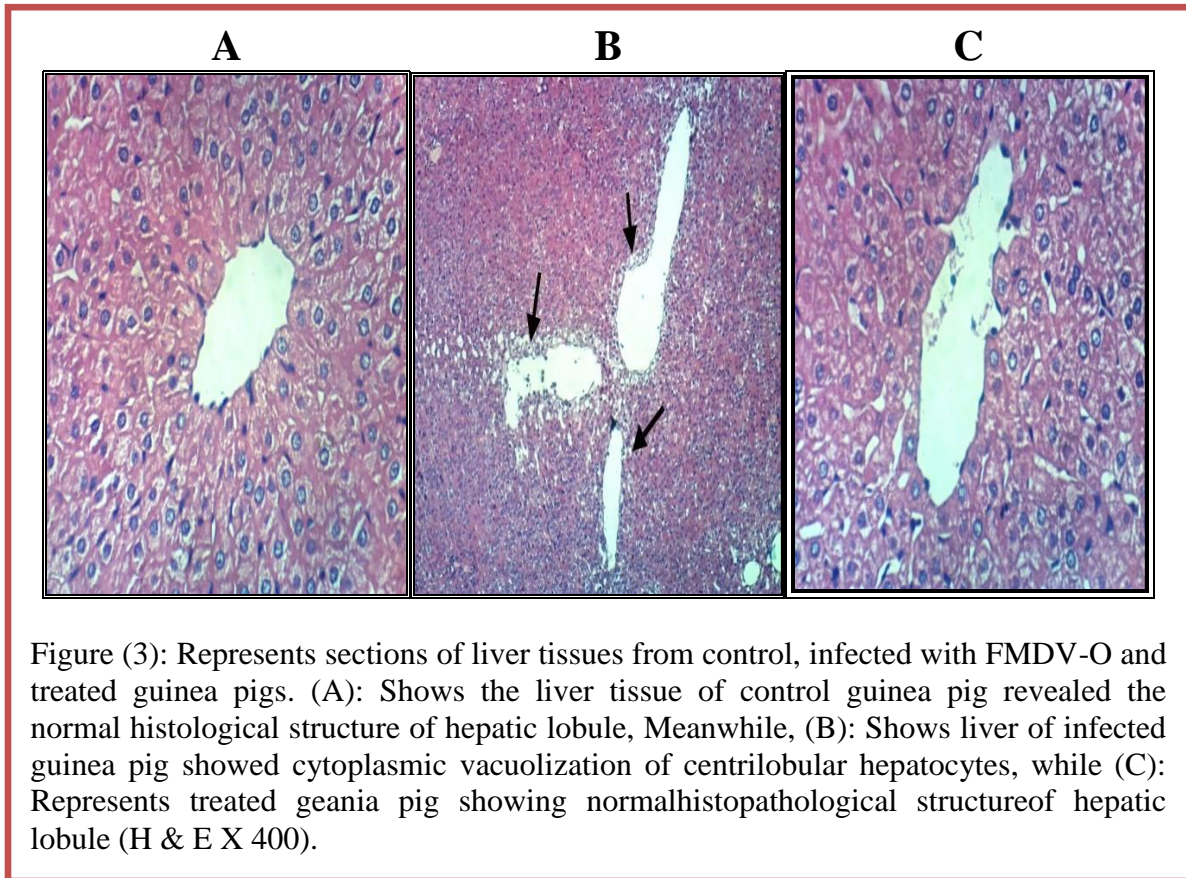


Figure (3): Represents sections of liver tissues from control, infected with FMDV-O and treated guinea pigs. (A): Shows the liver tissue of control guinea pig revealed the normal histological structure of hepatic lobule, Meanwhile, (B): Shows liver of infected guinea pig showed cytoplasmic vacuolization of centrilobular hepatocytes, while (C): Represents treated geania pig showing normalhistopathological structureof hepatic lobule (H & E X 400).

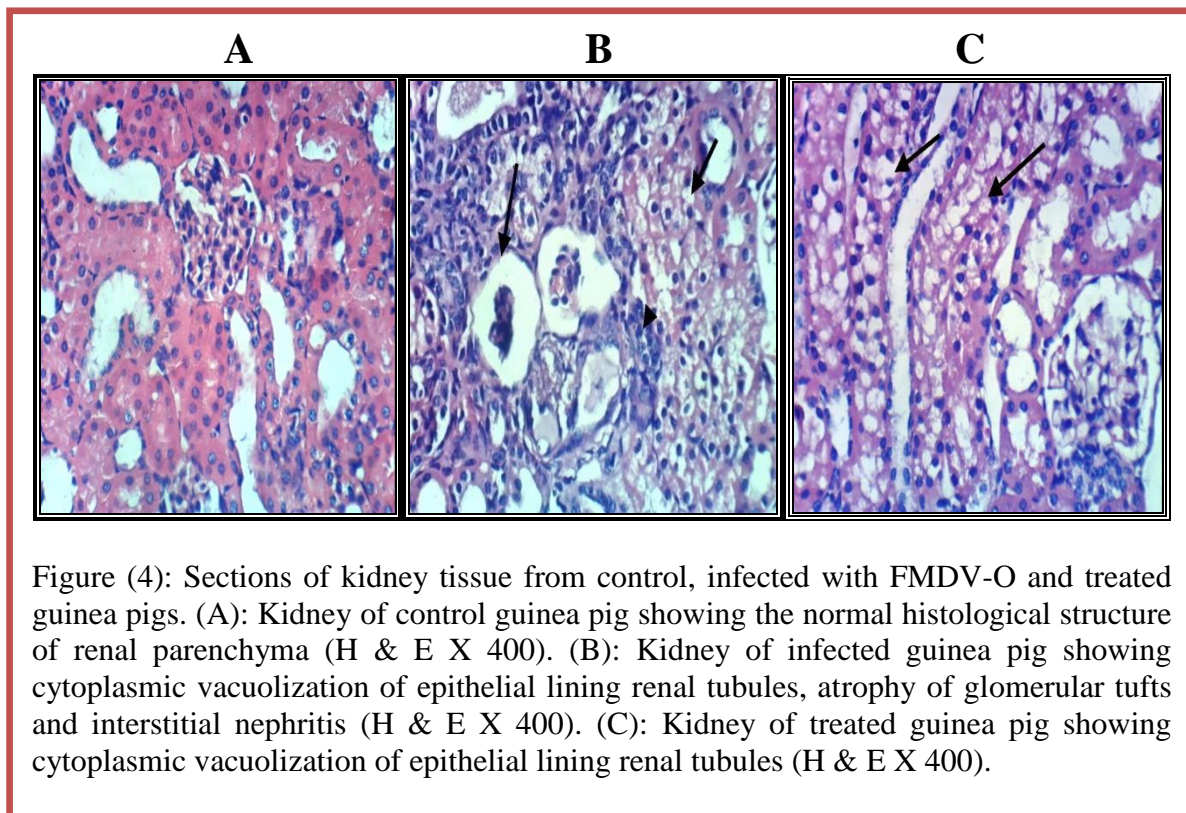
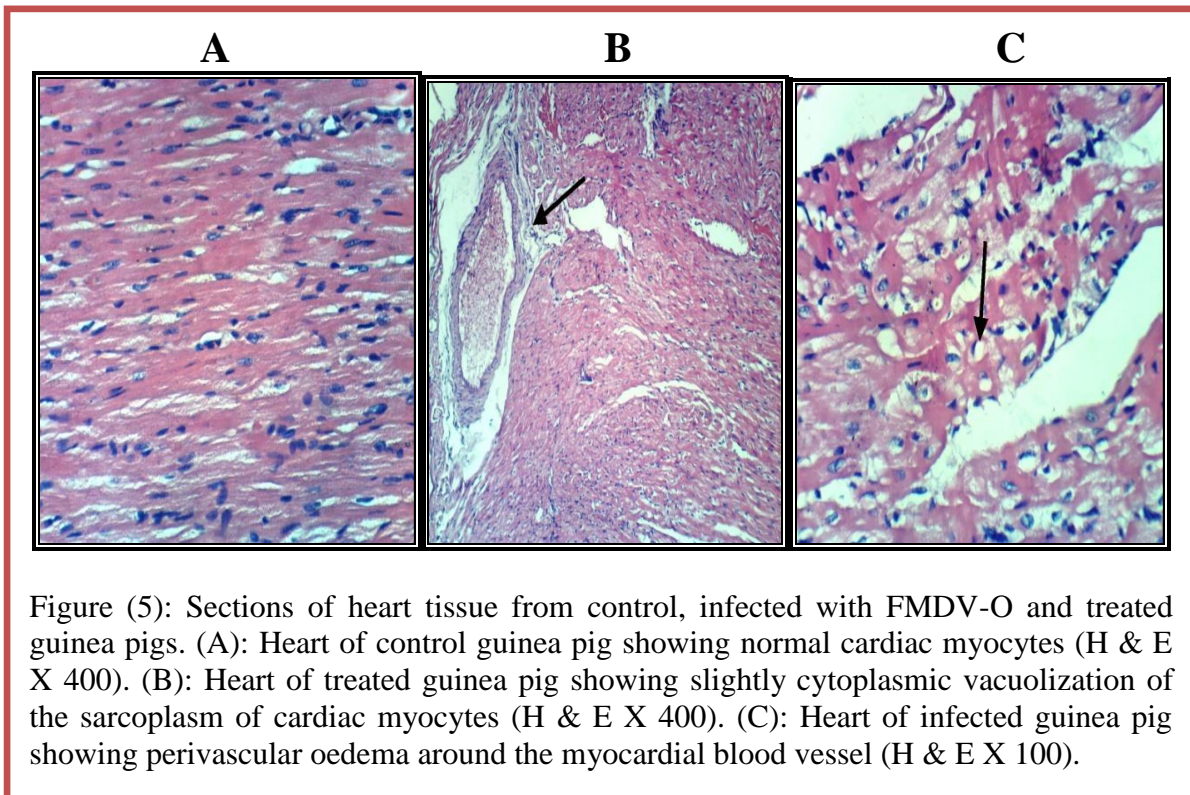


Figure (4): Sections of kidney tissue from control, infected with FMDV-O and treated guinea pigs. (A): Kidney of control guinea pig showing the normal histological structure of renal parenchyma (H & E X 400). (B): Kidney of infected guinea pig showing cytoplasmic vacuolization of epithelial lining renal tubules, atrophy of glomerular tufts and interstitial nephritis (H & E X 400). (C): Kidney of treated guinea pig showing cytoplasmic vacuolization of epithelial lining renal tubules (H & E X 400).





**Clinical evaluation of bee venom treatment against FMDV–O in goats: -**

**Clinical signs observation:** The severity of the lesion, temperature and the heels condition of the animals were noticed and monitored during the treatment period. (Photo-4) represent lesions on gum of goat, the lesions on gum nearly disappear and febrile condition is completely cleared at the end of treatment period. There are another clinical signs of FMD in goats like increasing in temperature (fever) as appeared in table (6) and reduction in the body weight as shown in table (7). Also virus titer was determined before and during the treatment period and showed that the titer of virus at 7th day of treatment of bee venom was decreased till disappeared finally as seen in table (8). Different changes are seen in hematological and biochemical analysis during the treatment period revealed improvement of the animals gradually in compare with the infected cases at the beginning of the study as seen in (table 9,10) and figures from 6 to 7.

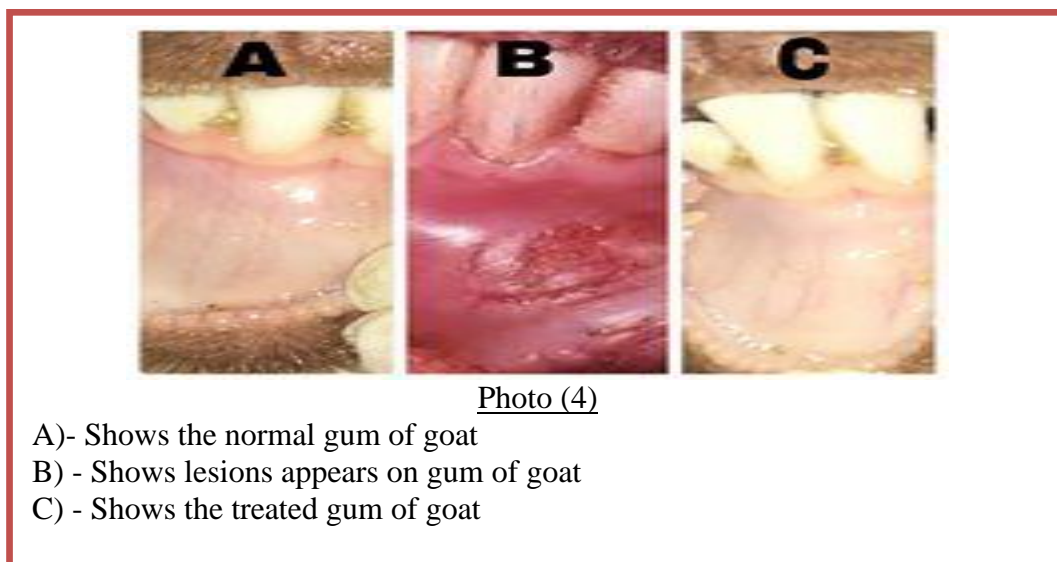


Photo (4)

- A)- Shows the normal gum of goat
- B) - Shows lesions appears on gum of goat
- C) - Shows the treated gum of goat

**Table (6): The temperature of goats during infection of FMDV-O and treatment of bee venom.**

Normal temperature of animals	Temperature at the 7th day after infection (1 <sup>st</sup> day of treatment)	Temperature of treated animals at 3 <sup>th</sup> day	Temperature of treated animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day
38.4-40 °C Range (39.4°C)	39.9 ±3.99 °C	38.2 ±3.82 °C	38.4 ± 3.84°C

**Table (7): The body weight of goats during infection of FMDV-O and treatment of bee venom.**

Normal body weight of animals	Body weight of infected animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day	Body weight of treated animals at 7 <sup>th</sup> day of treatment period
30 ±3.0 Kg	25±2.5 Kg	29±2.9 Kg

**Table (8): The titer of FMDV-O in infected and treated goats:**

FMDV-O titer (infected)		FMDV-O titer (treated)			
1 <sup>st</sup> day of Infection titer	At the 7th day after infection (1st day of treatment)	At the 3 <sup>rd</sup> day	At the 7 <sup>th</sup> day		
1×10 <sup>6.5</sup>	1×10 <sup>6.5</sup>	1×10 <sup>5*</sup>	After 24 hrs.	After 48 hrs.	After 72 hrs.
			1×10 <sup>4.1*</sup>	1×10 <sup>2.4**</sup>	0***

**Hematological examination of goats: -**

**Table (9): Hematological values of goats: -**

Parameters	Control	Test 1 (7 <sup>th</sup> day of Infection Period)	Test 2 (3rd day of Treatment)	Test 3 (7th day of treatment)
<b>Heamoglobin (g/dl)</b>	11.5 ±1.15	11.4 ±1.14	9.2* ±0.92	11.3 ±1.13
<b>Red cell count (RBCS) (millions/cmm)</b>	5.0 ±0.1	4.4±0.4	4.56± 0.056	4.4 ±0.44
<b>Haematocrit (PCV) (%)</b>	33.0 ±0.3	33.9±3.39	32.2±3.22	37.6 *±3.76
<b>MCV (fl)</b>	30.0±3	77.0** ±7.7	79.3±3.93	76.4± 7.64
<b>MCH (pg)</b>	25.3±11.53	25.9±2.5	24.3±2.43	25.7 ±2.57
<b>MCHC (%)</b>	38.0 ±38.3	33.6 ±3.36	41.2 ±41.82	33.7±3.37
<b>Platelets count (T/cmm)</b>	400 ±4	979**±97.9	512* ±51.2	400.0 ±40
<b>White cell count (WBCS) (T/cmm)</b>	22.0 ±2.2	14.0*±1.4	13.0**±1.3	14.5* ±1.45
<b>Staff (%)</b>	2±0.2	2 ±0.2	1 ±0.1	2 ±0.2
<b>Segmented (Neutrophils) (%)</b>	45 ±4.5	55* ±5.5	50 ±5	45 ±4.5
<b>Lymphocytes (%)</b>	45 ±4.5	65** ±6.5	70** ±7	50 ±5
<b>Monocytes (%)</b>	5±0.5	5±0.5	6± 0.6	3 ±0.3
<b>Eosinophils (%)</b>	3 ±0.3	3 ±0.3	2 ±0.2	1 ±0.1
<b>Basophils (%)</b>	0 ±0	1 ±0	0 ±0	0 ±0

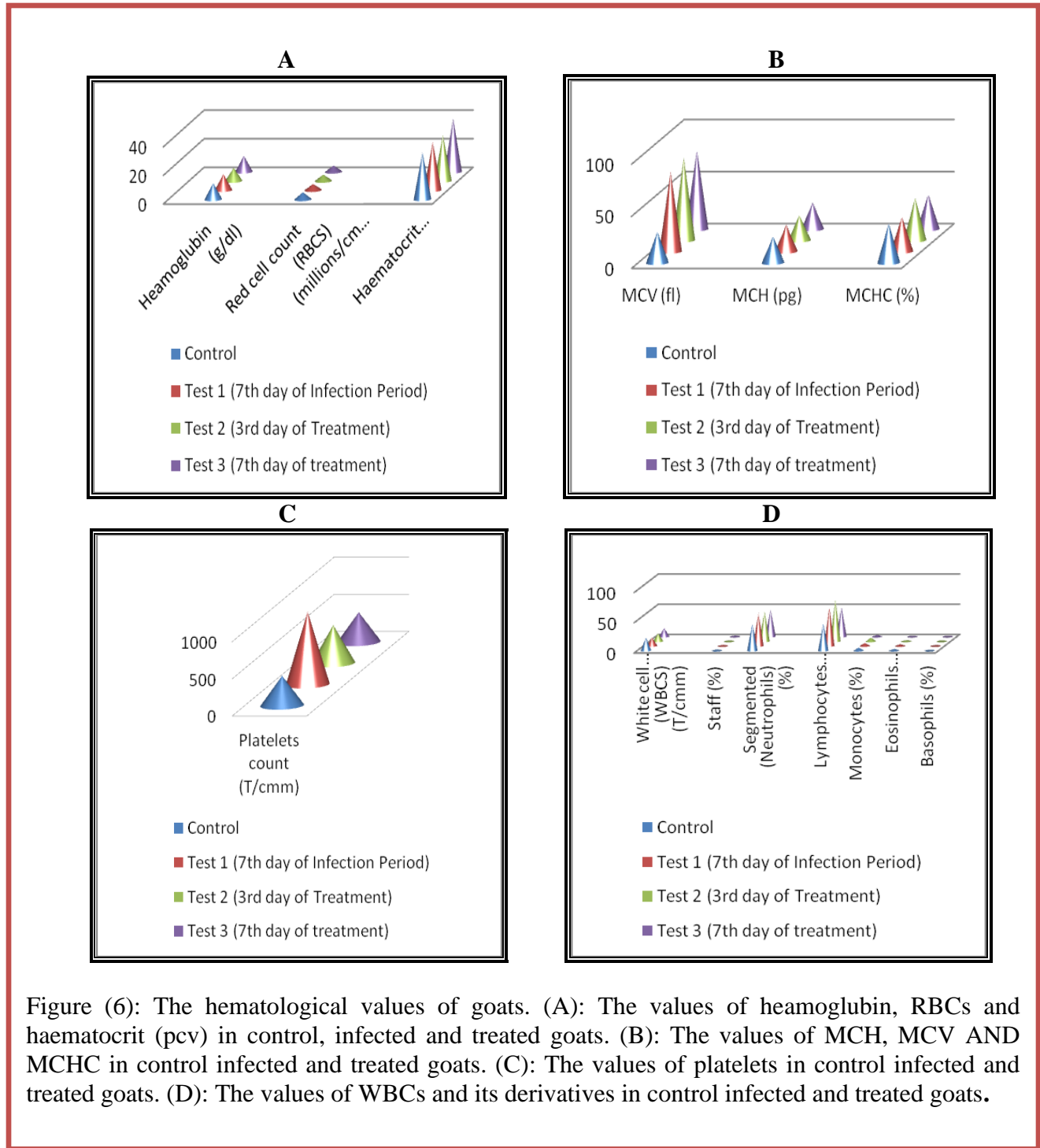
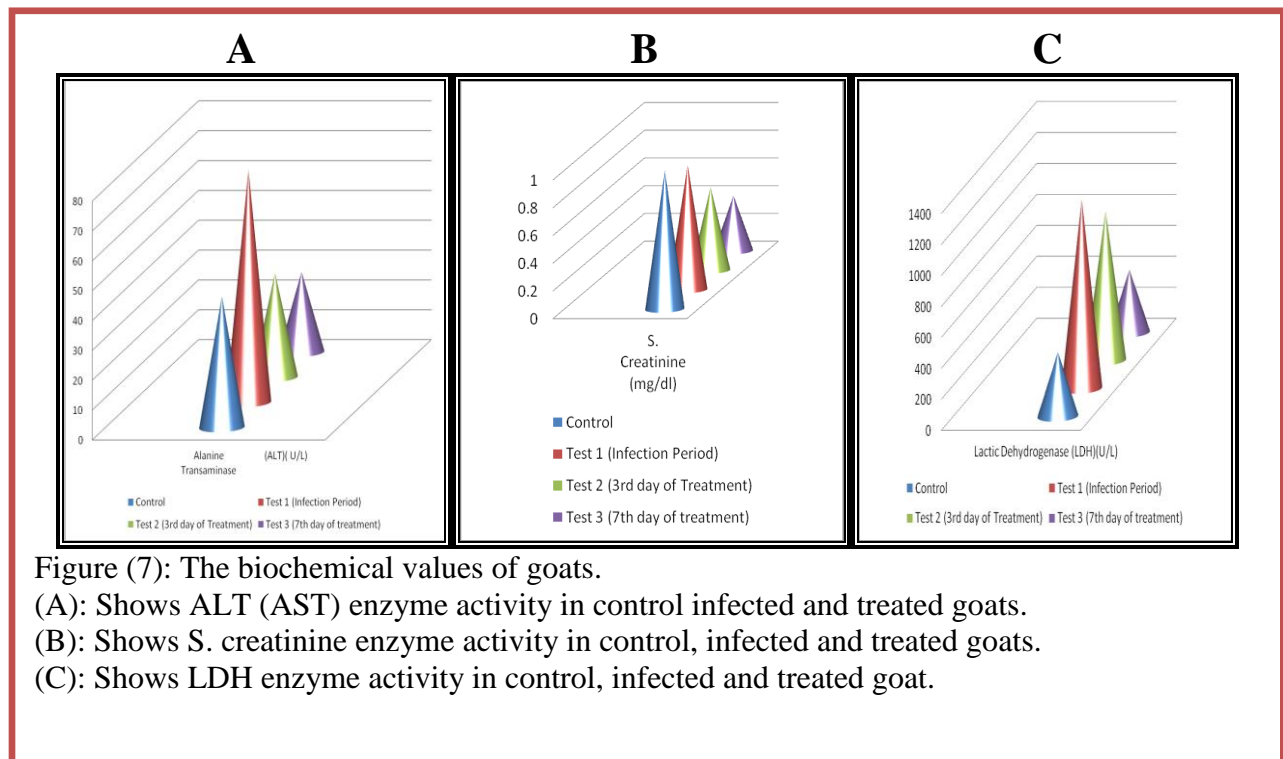


Figure (6): The hematological values of goats. (A): The values of heamoglobin, RBCs and haematocrit (pvc) in control, infected and treated goats. (B): The values of MCH, MCV AND MCHC in control infected and treated goats. (C): The values of platelets in control infected and treated goats. (D): The values of WBCs and its derivatives in control infected and treated goats.

**Biochemical examination of goats: -**

**Table (10): Enzyme activities in serum of goats: -**

Parameters	Control	Test 1 (Infection Period)	Test 2 (3 <sup>rd</sup> day of Treatment)	Test 3 (7 <sup>th</sup> day of treatment)
Alanine Transaminase (ALT)(U/L)	44 ± 4.4	78 *±7.8	35* ±3.5	27 **±2.7
S. Creatinine (mg/dl)	1.0 ±0.1	0.9 ±0.09	0.6 ±0.06	0.4± 0.04
Lactic Dehydrogenase (LDH)(U/L)	415 ±4.15	1224 ***±122.4	965** ±96.5	405 ±40.5





**Histopathological examination of goats: -**

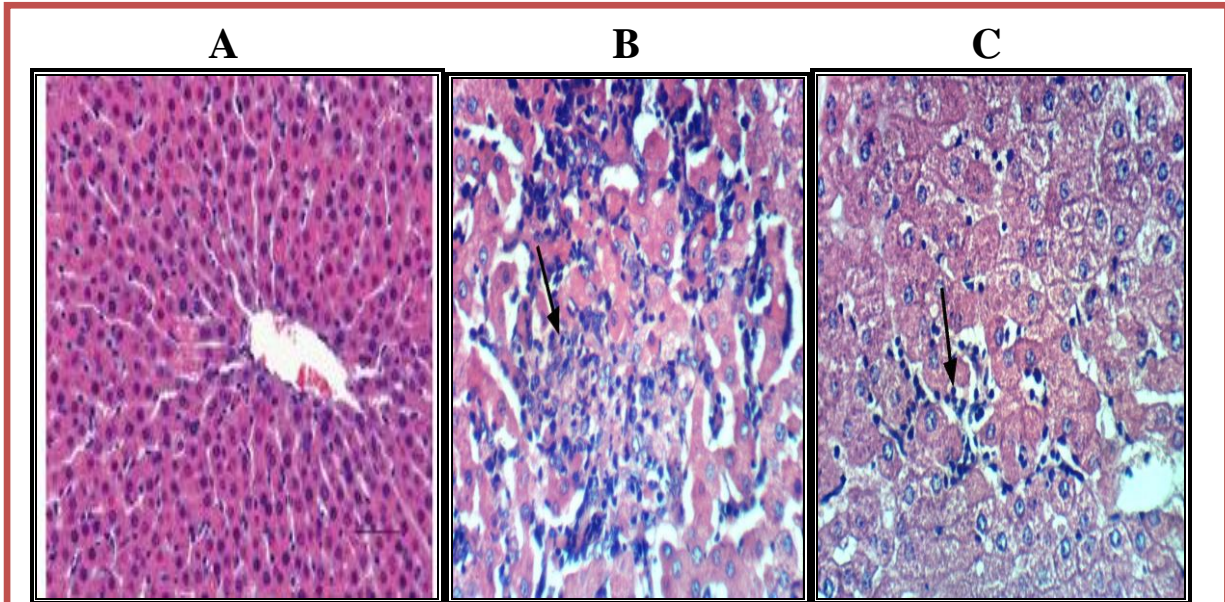


Figure (8): Sections of Liver tissue from control, infected with FMDV-O and treated goats. (A): Liver tissue of control goats revealed the normal histological structure of hepatic lobule (H & E X 400). (B): Liver infected with FMDV-O showing focal hepatic necrosis associated with mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration (H & E X 400). (C): Treated liver showing sinusoidal leukocytosis (mainly lymphocytes) (H & E X 400).

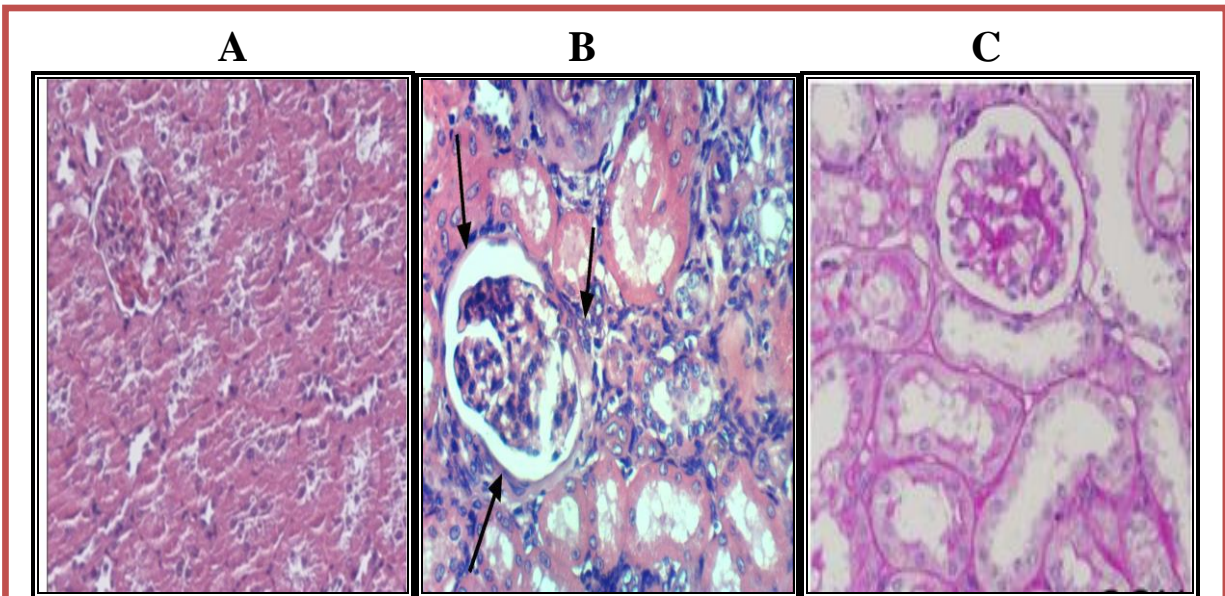


Figure (9): Sections of Kidney tissue from control, infected with FMDV-O and treated goats. (A): Kidney of control goats showing normal cardiac myocytes (H & E X 400). (B): Photomicrograph of kidney infected with FMDV-O showing interstitial nephritis and thickening of the parietal layer of Bowman's capsule (H & E X 400). (C): Treated kidney showing cytoplasmic vacuolization of epithelial lining renal tubules (H & E X 400).

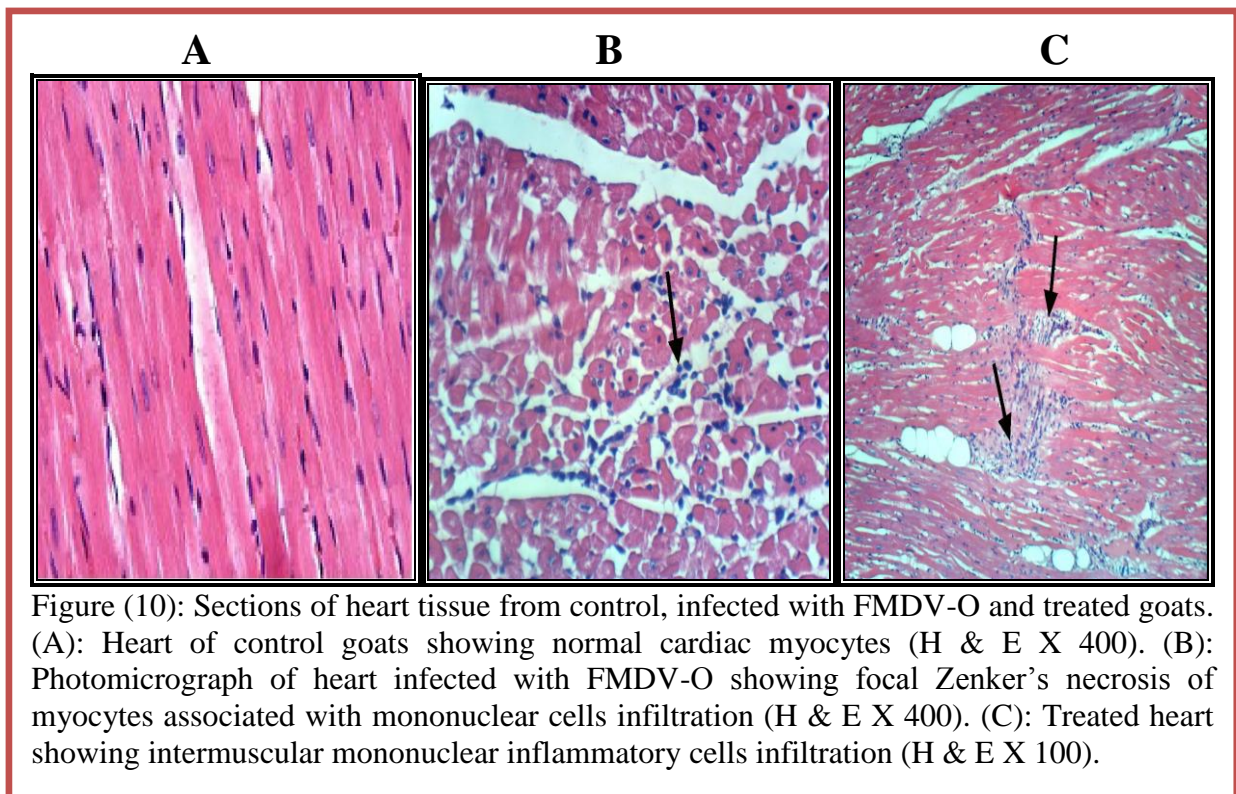


Figure (10): Sections of heart tissue from control, infected with FMDV-O and treated goats. (A): Heart of control goats showing normal cardiac myocytes (H & E X 400). (B): Photomicrograph of heart infected with FMDV-O showing focal Zenker's necrosis of myocytes associated with mononuclear cells infiltration (H & E X 400). (C): Treated heart showing intermuscular mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration (H & E X 100).

#### Discussion: -

Regarding to the previous results, Infection of Guinea pigs by FMDV-O resulted in redness and swelling in the foot-pad and eye and between the toes and febrile /condition, these previous results due to the effect of virulent virus on guinea pig as agreed by **Chen and Liu (2013)**, **Lohse, et al (2012)**, **Wang et al, 2011**, **Núñez et al, 2007**, and **Knudsen et al, 1979**. Infection of goats by FMDV-O resulted in appearance of lesions in gum and febrile condition of the animals manifested by shivering in all tested animals, these previous results due to the effect of virulent virus on goats and guinea pigs as agreed by **Gakuya et al (2011)**, and **Wernery & Kinne (2012)**, while rectal temperatures was determined and we found significant decrease in temperature after treatment by bee venom injection as shown in (table 1,6), this result was agreed with (**Kittelberger, et al, 2015**). Regarding the hematological results, total number of RBCs in the infected group was significantly lower than that in the treated group ( $P < 0.05$ ), while MCV values were significantly higher in the treated group. There were no significant differences in the other haematological parameters between the groups. The significant reduction in RBCs and elevation in MCV may be attributed to endocrinopathy as reported previously by (**Gokce et al., 2004**). Regarding the biochemical results as shown in (5,10), there were significant increase in ALT, Creatinine and LDH in infected group comparing with the control group as reported previously by (**Gokce et al., 2004**)., these biochemical and haematological alterations may indicate the development of anaemia and pancreatic dysfunction in animal suffering from FMD. This study also indicated that Aphtovirus induces the production of nitric oxide, in vivo. These findings provided information on our understanding of the clinical pathology and pathogenesis of FMD.

**Treatment** of diseased guinea pigs and goats by bee venom injection daily for 7 days resulted in disappearance of the previous clinical signs at the end of treatment period.

Regarding the RBCs count, hemoglobin content, and PCV value of infected and test guinea pigs and goats as shown in (tables 4, 9 and figures 1 and 6), there was non-significant increase in RBCs count, and hemoglobin content after 7 days of bee venom injection with concomitant gradual significant increase in Hematocrit percent within normal range along the period of the study. Similar results obtained by (**Husseien, et al, 2001**). While MCV, MCH and MCHC values showed no significant increase along the testing period between the infected and tested group. This result was in agreement with that previously reported by (**Ishay et al, 1975**). The overall results of the erythron indicated that injection of bee venom in guinea pigs for 7 days resulted in improving blood status which explained by improving integrity of RBCs leading to increase in erythron and stimulatory effect on the heart that may result in increasing blood flow as reported by (**Vick et al, 1974**), (**Eliezer kaplinsky et al, 1976**) and **Husseien et al (2001)**. Concerning leukons, there was significant increase in total leukocytes with concomitant increase in lymphocytes count although this increase was within the normal range after 7 days of bee venom injection compared with the control group. This may be due to enhancement of lymphocytosis under the effect of bee venom components as PLA2 which discussed by (**Prinz et al, 1987**), or due to lymphocytes proliferation by stimulation of immune system as result of bee venom injection, this was assessed by (**Lonnitzer and Rabson, 1986**). Monocytes showed non-significant decreased after 7 days of bee venom injection although this was within the normal range. This decrease can clarify that increase in lymphocytes was due to its proliferation and not due to allergy



otherwise monocytes was also increased in response to allergy (**Moneret -Vautrin et al, 1987**). Neutrophils showed non-significant decrease while eosinophils and basophils count cause non-significant changes along the test period, these results were in agreement with (**Somerfield et al, 1984**) and may be due to the injection of nontoxic dose as mentioned by (**Kosnik and Wraber, 2000**).

The platelets count as shown in (table 4, 9 and figures 1,6), there was non-significant increase after 7 days of bee venom injection, while the observed increase in the values were within the normal level. This platelets activity was due to bee venom hypersensitivity (**Tsicopolous et al, 1989**) but the use of bee venom in special schedule for injection may cause desensitization which give rise to adjustment of platelets level to be in the normal range. Also may be due to inhibition in platelets aggregation under the stimulatory effect for production of prostaglandin as mentioned by (**Ribardo et al, 2001**).

Regarding the biochemical activities, AST activity showed moderate significant decrease ( $P \geq 0.01$ ) in its levels in treated group along the test period as shown in (table 5,10 and figure 2, 8). These give us more confidence that bee venom has improvement action on the liver. The serum creatinine level (table 5, 10 and figure 2, 8) of treated group resulted in significant decreases after 7 days with no-significant decrease along the test period compared with infected group. This means that bee venom has benefit effect on the kidney. As shown in (table 5, 10 and figure 2, 8), there was moderate significant decrease in the LDH levels in compared with infected group along the test period. These previous biochemical changes attributed to the benefit effect of bee venom on the blood which increase the tissue tolerance to lack of oxygen (hypoxia) with increase in arterial blood flow and vascular permeability so the exchange between blood and tissue is increased (**Foster, 1969, Vick et al, 1974, and Chkenderow and Kobourova, 1981**). This explained that bee venom didn't induce cellular toxicity determined by decrease in release of lactic dehydrogenase (LDH).

Regarding the pathological examination of guinea pigs and goats, as shown in (figure 3,4,5,8,9,10), Microscopically, In Figure (3-B) shows liver of infected guinea pig showed cytoplasmic vacuolization of centrilobular hepatocytes, while figure (3-C) represents treated guinea pig showing normal histopathological structure of hepatic lobule. In Figure (4-B) shows sections of kidney tissues of infected guinea pig revealed cytoplasmic vacuolization of epithelial lining renal tubules. Meanwhile, In figure (4-C) shows treated guinea pig revealed slightly vacuolization. In figure (5-B) shows heart of infected guinea pig showing perivascular oedema around the myocardial blood vessel. Meanwhile, In figure (5-C) represents heart of treated guinea pig showing slightly cytoplasmic vacuolization of the sarcoplasm of cardiac myocytes. In figure (8-B) shows liver infected with FMDV-O showing focal hepatic necrosis associated with mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration. In figure (8-C) shows treated liver showing sinusoidal leukocytosis. (9-B) represents Photomicrograph of kidney infected with FMDV-O showing interstitial nephritis and thickening of the parietal layer of Bowman's capsule and in figure (9-C) shows treated kidney showing cytoplasmic vacuolization of epithelial lining renal tubules. In figure (10-B)

shows heart infected with FMDV-O showing focal Zenker's necrosis of myocytes associated with mononuclear cells infiltration. (10-C) shows treated heart of goat showing intermuscular mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltration. Finally, there was improvement in histopathological case according to the previous results comparing between treated and infected organs.

By determination of the virus load before and after the treatment period we found that there is significant decrease in virus load along the period of treatment in compare with the beginning virus load. These results revealed that there is antiviral activity of *Apis mellifera lamarckii* venom may be due to the high level of melittin and These results were agree with **De-Clercq et al, (2000)** proved that bee venom melittin inactivates HIV and also aborts cell-to-cell fusion and transmission of HIV, due to its high-affinity interaction with gp120 and **Masuda et al, (2005)** explained that the antiviral effect of the bee venom phospholipase A2 depends essentially on its ability to hydrolyze phospholipids in host cell membranes Also proved that Bee venom melittin inactivates HIV and also aborts cell-to-cell fusion and transmission of HIV, due to its high-affinity interaction. As shown in **Moreno and Giralt (2015)**, The antiviral activities described for melittin and its analogs are caused by specific intracellular events, with the selective reduction of the biosynthesis of some viral proteins, as reported for the melittin analog Hecate on herpes virus-1 and for melittin itself on HIV-1-infected lymphoma cells. In the 90s, active melittin was presented to provide an improved composition complementary to azidothymidine (AZT) to inhibit the reverse transcriptase and growth of HIV-infected cells. Another study of **Bose and Acharya (2015)** shown that although melittin destroys the infectivity of HIV particles, the utility of this toxin is limited by its nonspecific cytotoxic effects: melittin kills cells by disrupting membrane structure and function. **Lawrence and Skalka (1980)** stated that the melittin compound can make the viral envelope permeable, that make it loss of its infectivity and **Mitsuishi et al, (2006)** indicated that the direct addition of bee venom phospholipase A2 to 293A cells suppressed adenovirus plaque formation in both number and size. **Pharney (1996)** described the beneficial effect of bee venom active components on the human body as follow: Apamin and melittin were more potent than penicillin against certain bacteria, while mast cell degranulating peptide and adolapin were non-steroidal anti-inflammatory. **Matsuzaki (1997)** said that honeybee venom contains at least 18 active substances. Melittin, is the most prevalent and it is one most potent anti-inflammatory agents known (100 times more potent than hydrocortisol). Adolapin is another strong anti-inflammatory substance and inhibit cyclooxygenase. Apamine inhibits complement C3 activity and blocks calcium-dependent potassium channels, thus enhancing nerve transmission. Other substances such as compound X, hyaluronidase, phospholipase A2, histamine and mast cell degeneration protein are involved in the inflammatory response of the venom in during a softening of tissue and facilitation of fluid flow.

These results due to **antiviral effect of bee venom** as reported by **De-Clercq et al, (2000)**, **Masuda et al, (2005)**, **Moreno & Giralt (2015)**, **Bose and Acharya (2015)**, **Lawrence and Skalka (1980)**, **Mitsuishi et al, (2006)**, **Ramadan et al,**

(2009), (Fenard *et al*, 1999), (Yong *et al*, 1990) and (Yunginger *et al*, 1978) whose mentioned that this antiviral activity due to melittin and or phospholipase A2 enzyme activity also may be due to protease inhibitor which involved in bee venom (Bogdanov, 2015). Also bee venom has **anti-inflammatory** effect which manifested by decrease foot bad inflammation during the treatment period by induction of COX2 expression and stimulation of prostaglandin generation which have biological activities resulting in revealed viremia and inflammation as reported by Ribardo *et al*, (2002), Park *et al* (2004), kim (1992) and lee *et al*, (2005).

Also in Vick *et al*, (1972) observed that bee venom or one of its components (melittin) when injected S/C in Rhesus monkeys stimulated the production of cortisol from the adrenal gland through its action on the pituitary gland without any gross or microscopic tissue changes. These observations may explain bee venom benefits in variety of disease conditions that also respond to adrenal steroid therapy. In Lee *et al*, (2004) study reported that acupuncture therapy with bee venom suppressed the development of arthritis and caused inhibition of the immune responses in type-II collagen-induced arthritis. The incidence of arthritis, the mean arthritis index, and the number of arthritic limbs were significantly lower in the bee venom treatment compared to the control group. Among the serum pro-inflammatory cytokines, examination of the histopathology of the joints of murine CIA showed decreased inflammation signs and less lymphocyte infiltration after bee venom acupuncture therapy. Hyoung *et al*, (2005) stated that bee venom has been used traditionally for the control of pain and inflammation in various chronic inflammatory diseases. They also suggested that bee venom inhibits the proliferation of rheumatoid synovial fibroblast cells through induction of apoptosis by caspase-3 activation. Kwon *et al*, 2003 reported that subcutaneous bee venom injection produced a marked suppression of leucocyte migration and tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha concentration. The anti-inflammatory effect bee venom administration was mediated in part by the release of catecholamines from the adrenal medulla. Also the previous results may be attributed to effect of bee venom as **immunomodulator** which it stimulates immune system to protect the body against infection by its stimulation of prostaglandin generation which have biological activities resulting in revealed of viremia due to stimulation of IL-10, TNF alpha, and CD8 which result in regulation in IgE which responsible for histamine release (Rekka *et al*, 1990). McHugh *et al*, (1995) examined changes in cytokine secretion in patients before and during both rush and conventional venom immunotherapy (VIT) in bee venom allergen patients and showed that immunotherapy shifted cytokine responses to allergen from a TH-2 to a TH-1 dominant pattern, suggesting direct effects on T cells. So it is possible to use whole venom in treatment of various medical disorders/diseases. Kammerer *et al*, (1997) said that venom immunotherapy (VIT) lead to transient increase in T-cell proliferation followed by T-cell hypo responsiveness and modulation of cytokine secretion from T (H0)-type to a T(H1) type pattern. Akdis *et al*, (1998) found that bee venom phospholipase A2 (PLA) induced high IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13 production in peripheral blood mononuclear cell cultures. These features may enable new applications for safer immunotherapy.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION

From the previous project we recommend to use bee venom as injection as alternative medicine in veterinary practice as it is safe and effective medication against virus infection specially RNA viruses as seen in the previous results on FMDV-O. We succeeded to treat laboratory and large animals by bee venom. Using of bee venom by intradermal injection is useful to maintain the health condition through its immune-stimulant effect.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors have taken efforts in this project; however, it would not have been possible without the kind support and help of many individuals. The authors extremely thankful and indebted to Dr. Gehan Safwat for sharing expertise, and sincere and valuable guidance and encouragement extended to me. Various members of VACSERA team also provided considerable assistance during the project. Finally, I want to thank Dr. Samia Kamal for providing the Foot-and-mouth disease virus Type-O from Animal Health Institute –Egypt.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Aftosa, F. (2014). Foot and Mouth Disease. P.1-9.
- [2] Akdis C, A; Blesken T; Akdis M; Wuthrich B; Blaser K. (1998a). Differential regulation of human T cell cytokine patterns and IgE and IgG4 responses by conformational antigen variants. Eur. J. Immunol. 1998 Mar., 28 (3): 914-25.
- [3] Akdis C, A; Blesken T; Akdis M; Wuthrich B; Blaser K. (1998b). Role of interleukin 10 in specific immunotherapy. J. Clin. Invest. 1998 Jul 1., 102 (1): 98-106.
- [4] Ali, M. (2012). Studies on Bee Venom and Its Medical Uses, International Journal of Advancements in Research & Technology. Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.1(2). Pp.1-15.
- [5] Barkakati J.; Sarma S; and Kalita D.J. (2015). Effect of foot and mouth disease on haematological and biochemical profile of cattle, Indian J. Anim. Res. 49 (5): 713-716. DOI: 10.18805/ijar.5588.
- [6] Bartles H; Bohmer M; Heirili C. (1972). Serum creatinine determination with out protein precipitation. Clin. Chem Acta 37, 193-7.
- [7] Bashandy, M.A.(2003). Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals in medical research. Publishers of scientific books for publication and distribution, Egypt. 977-287-318-4.
- [8] Bogdanov, S. (2015).Bee Venom:Composition, Health, Medicine: A Review. Bee Product Science, www.bee-hexagon.net
- [9] Bancroft J. D; Stevans A; and Tuner D.R. (1996). Theory and practice of histological techniques. 4th Ed. Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne, New York.
- [10] Chen H-t, Liu Y-s (2013). Immunity of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Serotype Asia 1 by Sublingual Vaccination. PLoS ONE 8(5): e63839. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0063839.
- [11] Chkenderov S; and Kabourova K. (1981). Mecanisme de l'action antiinflammatoire du venin d'abeille, in the XXVIII-Th. Apimondia Congress, Acapulco, Mexico, P.446.
- [12] De Clercq . (2000). Current lead natural products for the chemotherapy of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, E. Medicinal research reviews.
- [13] El-Fiky, A. (2006). Clinical studies on the use of animal venoms as alternative therapy in the veterinary practices. PHD. Faculty of veterinary medicine, Cairo University. 1-237.

- [14] Eliezer kaplinsky; Jacob Ishay, David Ben-Schcher, and Simon Gitter. (1976). Effect of bee (*Apis Mellifera*) venom on the electrocardiogram and blood pressure. *Toxicon*. Vol. 17, 251-256.
- [15] Fenard D; Lambeau G; Valentin E; Lefebvre J. G; Lazdunski M.; Doglio A. (1999). Secreted phospholipases A(2), a new class of HIV inhibitors that block virus entry into host cells. *J. Clin. Invest.* 1999 Sep; 104 (5), 611-8.
- [16] Forster K. A. (1969). Chemically, pharmacology, and therapeutic effectiveness of bee venom in the XXII-Nd. Apimondia congress, Munich, Germany.
- [17] Gakuya D. W; Mulei C.M.1; Wekesa S. B. (2011). Use of ethnoveterinary remedies in the management of foot and mouth disease lesions in a dairy herd, *Afr J Tradit Complement Altern Med.* 8(2):165-169.
- [18] Gokce G. et al. (2004). Alterations in Some Haematological and Biochemical Parameters in Cattle Suffering from Foot- and -Mouth Disease, *Turk J Vet Anim Sci*, 28 (2004), 723-727.
- [19] Grubman, M ; and Baxt, B. (2004). Foot-and-Mouth Disease, clinical microbiology reviews.17 (2). 465-493. Agricultural Research Service; North Atlantic Area, Greenport, New York 11944. DOI: 10.1128/CMR.17.2.
- [20] Habiel M, et al. (2014). Laboratory animal models to study foot-and-mouth disease: a review with emphasis on natural and vaccine-induced immunity, *J Gen Virol.* 95(Pt 11): 2329-2345. doi: 10.1099/vir.0.068270-0.
- [21] Hugh M. Hyre and Randall A. Smith (1986). Immunological effects of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) venom using BALB/c mice. *Toxicon*, 24 (2), 435-440.
- [22] Hussein A. A; Nabil Z. I; Zalat S. M; Rakha M. K. (2001). Comparative study of the venoms from three species of bees: effects on heart activity and blood. *J Nat Toxins.* 2001 Nov; 10 (4): 343-57.
- [23] Hyoung-Seok Jang; Sun Kwang Kim; Jae-Bok Han; Hyun-Jong Ahn; Hyunsu Bae; and Byung-II Min. (2005). Effects of bee venom on the pro-inflammatory responses in RAW 264.7 macrophage cell line. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 99 (1), 13 May 2005, 157-160.
- [24] Hyre H. M and Smith R. A. (1986). Immunological effects of honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) venom using BALB/c mice. *Toxicon*, 24 (5), 435-40.
- [25] International Federation of clinical chemistry. (1980). Scientific Committee. *J. Clin. Chem. Clin. Biochem.* 1980; 18:521-534.
- [26] Ishay J; Ben-Shacher D; Elazer Z; and Kaplinsky E. (1975): Effects of melittin on the central nervous system. *Toxicon*, 13 (4). 227-283.
- [27] Kammerer R; Chvatchko Y; Kettner A; Dufour N; Corradin G; Spertini F. (1997). Modulation of T-CELL response to phospholipase A2 and phospholipase A2-derived peptides by conventional bee venom immunotherapy. *J. Allergy Clin Immunol.* 1997 Jun; 100 (1): 96-103.
- [28] Kim C. M. H. (1992). *Bee Venom Therapy and Bee Acupuncture Therapy*. Korea Educational pub; 1992. 515pp.
- [29] Kittelberger R, et al. (2015). Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Red Deer – Experimental Infection and Test Methods Performance, *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*. 3 13. doi:10.1111/tbed.12363.
- [30] Kosnik M; and Wraber B. (2000). Shift from Th2 to Th1 response in immunotherapy with venoms. *Pflugers Arch*, 440 (5 suppl): R70-1.
- [31] Kwon Y. B; Kim H. W; Ham T.W; Yoon S.Y; Roh D. H; Han H.J; Beitz A. J; Yang I.S; Lee J.H. (2003). The anti-inflammatory effect of bee venom stimulation in a mouse air pouch model is mediated by adrenal medullary activity. *J. Neuroendocrinol.* 2003 Jan; 15 (1): 93-6.
- [32] Lawrence R. B. and Skalka, A. (1980). Two species of full-length cDNA are synthesized in high yield by melittin-treated avian retrovirus particles. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77(2): 847-851.
- [33] Lee J. D; Kim S. Y; Kim T.WI Lee S. H; Yang H. I; Lee D. I; Lee Y. H. (2004). Anti-inflammatory effect of bee venom on type II collagen-induced arthritis. *Am J Chin Med.* 2004; 32 (3): 361-7.
- [34] Lee J. Y; Kang S.S; Kim J.H; Bae C.S; Choi S. H. (2005). Inhibitory effect of whole bee venom in adjuvant-induced arthritis. *In-vivo.* 2005 Jul-Aug; 19(4):801-5.
- [35] Lohse L; Jackson T; Bøtner A; Belsham G. J. (2012). Capsid coding sequences of foot-and-mouth disease viruses are determinants of pathogenicity in pigs, *Vet Res.* 43(1): 46. doi: 10.1186/1297-9716-43-46.
- [36] Lomnitzer R; Rabson A. R. (1986). Lack of responsiveness of beekeeper mononuclear cells to in vitro stimulation with pure bee venom. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 78 (1 pt 1): 25-30.
- [37] Masuda, S.; Murakami, M.; Takanezawa, Y.; Aoki, J.; Arai, H.; Ishikawa, Y.; Ishii, T.; Arioka, M. and Kudo, I. (2005). Neuronal expression and neurotogenic action of group X secreted phospholipase A2. *J. Biol. Chem.* 280: 23203- 23214.
- [38] McHugh S. M; Deighton J; Stewart A. G; Lachmann P. J; Ewan P. W. (1995). Bee venom immunotherapy induces a shift in cytokine responses from a TH-2 to a TH-1 dominant pattern: comparison of rush and conventional immunotherapy. *Clin Exp Allergy.* 1995 Sep, 25 (9): 828-38.
- [39] Mitsuishi M.; Masuda S.; Kudo I. and Murakami, M. (2006). Group V and X secretory phospholipase A2 prevents adenoviral infection in mammalian cells. *Biochem J.*; 393(Pt 1):97-106.
- [40] Moneret-Vautrin D. A; Bene M. C; Grave P; Faure G; and Maria Y. (1987). Margueurs membranaires des lymphocytes sanguins avant et 28 heures après immunotherapy acceleree. *Revue Francaise d' Allergologie et d'immunologie Clinique*, 27 (4), 175-180.
- [41] Moreno, I and Giralt, E. (2015). Three Valuable Peptides from Bee and Wasp Venoms for Therapeutic and Biotechnological Use: Melittin, Apamin and Mastoparan, *Toxins*. 7, 1126-1150; doi:10.3390/toxins7041126.
- [42] Park H. J; Lee S. H; Son D.J; Oh K.H; Song H. S; Kim G.T; Yoon do Y; Hong J.T. (2004). Antiarthritic effect of bee venom: inhibition of inflammation mediator generating by suppression of NF-kappaB through interaction with the p50 subunit. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2004 Nov; 50 (11): 3504-15.
- [43] Pharney, J. (1996). Bee venom: how does it achieve its therapeutic effects? *Bee Informed* 3(2): 4-5, 10-11, 15-17.
- [44] Prinz J. C; Endres N; Rank G; Ring J; Rieber E.P. (1987). Expression of Fc epsilon receptors on activated human T lymphocytes. *Eur. J. Immunol.* 17 (6), 757-61.
- [45] Ramadan1, H; Mohamed, A; Abd El- Daim, M. (2009). Evaluation of antiviral activity of honeybee venom on DNA and RNA virus models. *Egypt. Acad. J. biolog. Sci.*, 2 (1): 247- 258.
- [46] Rekkas E; Kourounakis L; Kourounakis P. (1990). Antioxidant activity of and interleukin production affected by honey bee venom. *Arzneimittelforschung.* 1990 Aug; 40 (8): 912-3.
- [47] Ribardo D. A; Crowe S. E; Kuhl K. R; Peterson J. W; Chopra A. K. (2001). Prostaglandin levels in stimulated macrophages are controlled by phospholipase A2-activating protein and by activation of phospholipase C and D. *J. Biol. Chem.* 276(8): 5467-75.
- [48] Ribardo D. A; Kuhl K. R; Peterson J. W; Chopra A. K. (2002). Role of melittin- like region within phospholipase- A(2)-activating protein in biological function. *Toxicon.* 2002 May; 40 (5): 519-26.
- [49] Richard C. Knudsen; Christopher M. Grocock; and Arthur A. Andersen. (1979). *Immunity to Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus in Guinea Pigs: Clinical and Immune Responses, Infection and immunity.* 787-792 24 (3).
- [50] Schalm, O. W., Jain, N.C and Carrol, E.J. (1975). *Veterinary Haematology*, 3rd Edn., Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, pp. 197-199.
- [51] Simics, Mihály. (1994). *Bee Venom: Exploring the Healing Power - Age Old Remedies for Arthritis, Rheumatism and Other Ailments.* Aptronix Publishing, book, paperback, ISBN 0-9697654-0-1, 80 pp.
- [52] Smith H. A; Jones, T.C; and Hunt R. D. (1972). *Veterinary pathology.* 4th Ed. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, pp. 145-154.
- [53] Snedecor G.W; and Cochran W.G. (1980). *Statistical methods.* 7th Ed. Ames: Iowa state university press.
- [54] Somerfield S. D; Stach J. L; Mrasz C; Gervais F; and Skamene E. (1984). Bee venom inhibits superoxide production by human neutrophils. *Inflammation.* 8 (4): 385-91.
- [55] Tscipoulos A; Tannel A.B; Wallaert B; Joseph M; Ramon P; and Capron A. (1989). A circulating suppressive factor of platelet cytotoxic functions after rush immunotherapy in Hymenoptera venom hypersensitivity. *J Immunol.* 15, 142 (8): 2683-8.
- [56] Van der heiden C; B. Ais; Gerh Ardt W; and Rosallsis. (1994). Approved recommendation on IFCC methods for the measurement of catalytic concentration of enzymes. Part 8. IFCC method for LDH. *Eur. J. Clinical chem.. Clin Biochem;* 1994; 32-639-655.
- [57] Vick J. A; Mehlman B; Brooks R; Phillips S. J; Shipman W. (1972). Effect of bee venom and melittin on plasma cortisol in the unanesthetized monkey, *Toxicon* 10, 581-586.
- [58] Vick J.A; Shipman W. H; and Brooks Jr. R. (1974). Beta adrenergic and anti-arrhythmic effects of cardiopep, a newly isolated substance from whole bee venom. *Toxicon* , 12(2), 139-142



- [59] Wang G, Pan L, Zhang YG, Wang YL, Zhang ZW, Lu JL, et al. (2011). Intranasal Delivery of Cationic PLGA Nano/Microparticles- Loaded FMDV DNA Vaccine Encoding IL-6 Elicited Protective Immunity against FMDV Challenge. Plos One. 6(11). ARTN e27605 doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.
- [60] Wernery U; Kinne J. (2012). Foot and mouth disease and similar virus infections in camelids: a review, Rev. sci. tech. 31 (3), 907-918.
- [61] Young A W; D E Haan EHFand Newcombe F. (1990). Unawareness of impaired face recognition. Brain and Cognition, 14, 1 -18.

#### AUTHORS

**First Author** – Amira M. Mansour, Graduation project student, Faculty of Biotechnology, October university for modern sciences and Arts, Egypt, Email: amira.mansour45@gmail.com.

**Second Author** – Abir A. Elfiky, Director of ANDI Coe in antivenom research, (VACSERA), Egypt.

**Third Author** – Aly Fahmy, Head Research &Development sector, (VACSERA), Egypt.

**Fourth Author**– Ayman Diab, Dean, Faculty of biotechnology, October university for modern sciences and Arts, Egypt.