



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**TOXIC EFFECTS OF NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY
DRUGS PIROXICAM AND MEFENAMIC ACID AND THEIR ROLES AS
CANCER CHEMOPREVENTIVE AGENTS**

FAIZAH SANAT

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CHEMOPREVENTIVE AGENTS**

By

FAIZAH SANAT

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

January 2004



To:

My beloved family

My parents, Sanat Md. Nasir and Nahariah Lias. My sister Farhani, this time you're the first. My brothers Mohd. Zahid , Mohd. Sirajuddin and Mohd. Hafizuddin. Welcoming the new member of the family, my sister-in-law, Hasmaniza and not forgetting little Hani Zahira.

Thank you for your love, support, encouragement and above all, patience.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

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Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the most widely used drugs worldwide. More NSAIDs were being produced and manufactured everyday. It was an overwhelming view that the thought of all NSAIDs were important due to their therapeutic actions by inhibiting the production of prostaglandin was challenged by the discovery that they affect a wide variety of cellular processes along the way. The NSAIDs piroxicam and mefenamic acid have dissimilar chemical structures, enolic and carboxylic acid respectively, but with the same mode of action for therapeutic uses. They both inhibit prostaglandin synthesis by inhibiting the cyclooxygenase (COX) pathway as of other conventional NSAIDs. However in some cases, they did differ with each other depending on the gravity of their effects on certain aspects.

Although the toxicity of piroxicam was well known and documented, mefenamic acid is still not the safest drugs of all. Histologically, mefenamic acid showed a marked toxicity to the liver and kidney of rats compared to piroxicam. Morphological changes



such as inflammation and fibrosis of liver were frequently observed in repeated doses of mefenamic acid with elevation of protein plasma alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and alanine transferase (ALT), higher than piroxicam. Piroxicam on the other hand, did cause higher toxicity in the gastrointestinal tract but not significant to mefenamic acid. Nevertheless, both drug showed a significant different ($p < 0.05$) when compared to control in post-treated plasma levels and also the mean lesion scores of samples treated with repeated doses of NSAIDs.

Using liver perfusion technique, freshly isolated rat hepatocytes were obtained for the *in vitro* treatment of NSAIDs. The cell viability test was done by trypan blue exclusion. As a result both piroxicam and mefenamic acid caused reduction in cell viability of hepatocytes up to 50% of cell death at highest concentration. However, mefenamic acid exerted its cytotoxicity even more so than piroxicam in both time- and dose-dependent manner. Meanwhile, the effects of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on Phenobarbital-induced rat hepatocytes were not pronouncedly shown. It was concluded that Phenobarbital-induced rat hepatocytes did not alter the cytotoxicity of both drugs in both time- and dose- dependent fashion.

Both piroxicam and mefenamic acid did significantly reduce the cell viability of cancer cells especially the colon cancer cells. MTT (3-[4, 5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2, 5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) assay was done to determine the cell viability of the cancer cells. Both colon cancer cells used (HCT 116 and Caco 2) showed a significant reduction in cell viability after being treated with both piroxicam and mefenamic acid. It was postulated that this event occurred due to their ability to inhibit the

prostaglandin synthesis which were upregulated in colon adenocarcinomas. That might be the possible reason behind the reduction of colon cancer cells' viability treated with NSAIDs.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**KESAN TOKSIK DADAH ANTI-KERADANGAN BUKAN STEROID
PIROXICAM DAN ASID MEFENAMIK DAN PERANAN MEREKA SEBAGAI
AGEN KIMOPREVENTIF KANSER**

Oleh

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Januari 2004

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Dadah anti-keradangan bukan steroid (NSAIDs) adalah kumpulan dadah yang paling meluas penggunaannya serata dunia. Lebih banyak NSAIDs telah dihasilkan dan dikeluarkan setiap hari. Ia adalah satu pandangan yang membingungkan tentang anggapan bahawa semua NSAIDs adalah sangat penting disebabkan oleh tindakan terapeutik mereka iaitu menyekat penghasilan prostaglandin, dicabar oleh penemuan yang mereka juga memberi pelbagai kesan yang meluas terhadap proses-proses sel sepanjang aktiviti itu. NSAIDs piroxicam dan asid mefenamik mempunyai struktur kimia yang berbeza, masing-masing asid enolik dan karboksilik, tetapi dengan gaya tindakan yang sama untuk kegunaan terapeutik. Kedua-duanya menyekat sintesis prostaglandin dengan menghalang laluan siklooksigenes (COX) sepertimana NSAIDs yang lain. Bagaimanapun, mereka memang berbeza di antara satu sama lain bergantung kepada tahap kesan masing-masing dalam sesetengah aspek.



Walaupun ketoksikan piroxicam telah diketahui dan didokumentasikan, asid mefenamik masih juga bukan dadah yang paling selamat. Secara histologinya, asid mefenamik menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan yang ketara terhadap hati dan buah pinggang tikus-tikus berbanding piroxicam. Perubahan morfologi seperti keradangan dan fibrosis pada hati telah dilihat dengan kerap dalam suntikan asid mefenamik secara berulang-kali dengan peningkatan terhadap plasma protein alkalin fosfatase (ALP) dan alanin trasferase (ALT) yang lebih tinggi berbanding piroxicam. Piroxicam pula memberi kesan ketoksikan yang lebih tinggi pada saluran pencernaan tetapi ia tidak signifikan berbanding asid mefenamik. Namun demikian, kedua-duanya menunjukkan perbezaan yang signifikan ($p < 0.05$) apabila dibandingkan dengan kawalan pada tahap plasma selepas rawatan dan juga min skor lesi bagi sampel yang dirawat oleh NSAIDs secara berulang-kali.

Dengan menggunakan teknik perfusi hati, pengasingan sel hepatosit tikus segar dapat dibuat untuk digunakan dalam rawatan *in vitro* oleh NSAIDs. Ujian untuk menguji sel-sel hidup dibuat menggunakan tripan biru. Piroxicam dan asid mefenamik menyebabkan penurunan kepada bilangan sel hepatosit yang hidup sebanyak 50% kematian sel pada kepekatan yang tertinggi. Bagaimanapun, asid mefenamik menunjukkan kesan kesitotoksikan yang lebih tinggi berbanding piroxicam dalam keadaan berkadar langsung dengan masa dan dos. Sementara itu, kesan piroxicam dan asid mefenamik terhadap sel-sel hepatosit yang telah dirawat terlebih dahulu dengan Phenobarbital tidak ditunjukkan dengan ketara. Sebagai konklusi,, sel-sel hepatosit yang telah dirawat dengan Phenobarbital tidak mengubah kesitotoksikan kedua-dua dadah dalam keadaan yang berkadar langsung dengan masa dan dos.

Kedua-dua piroxicam dan asid mefenamik secara signifikan telah menurunkan bilangan sel-sel kanser yang hidup terutama sel-sel kanser bagi kolon. Esei MTT (3-[4, 5-dimetilthiazol-2-yl]-2, 5-difeniltetrazolium bromid) telah dibuat untuk menentukan sel-sel kanser yang hidup. Kedua-dua sel kolon yang digunakan (HCT 116 dan Caco 2) menunjukkan penurunan sel-sel hidup yang signifikan selepas dirawat oleh piroxicam dan asid mefenamik. Ia telah didakwa bahawa kejadian ini berlaku disebabkan oleh kemampuan mereka menyekat sintesis prostaglandin yang terdapat dengan banyaknya dalam adenokarsinoma. Mungkin itu adalah salah satu sebab kepada penurunan bilangan sel-sel kanser yang hidup selepas dirawat oleh NSAIDs.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVALS	xi
DECLARATION	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
LIST OF FIGURES	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xxviii
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)	5
2.1.1 History and Overview	5
2.1.2 Classes of NSAIDs	6
2.1.3 Basic Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutic Use	8
2.1.4 Mechanism of Action of NSAIDs	11
2.2 Adverse Reactions to NSAIDs	17
2.2.1 Adverse Gastrointestinal Effects	17
2.2.2 Adverse Renal Effects	20
2.2.3 Haematological Effects	23
2.2.4 Cutaneous Hypersensitivity Reactions	25
2.2.5 NSAID-induced Hepatotoxicity	26
2.2.6 Other Adverse Effects	29
2.3 Pharmacokinetics of Piroxicam and Mefenamic Acid	30
2.3.1 Piroxicam	30
2.3.2 Mefenamic Acid	34
2.4 NSAIDs and Colon Cancer	37
3 <i>IN VIVO</i> EFFECT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC DOSES OF NSAIDs	39
3.1 Introduction	39
3.2 Materials and Methods	41
3.2.1 Compounds	41
3.2.2 Animals	41
3.2.3 Collection of Blood Samples	43
3.2.4 Changes in Body Weight	45
3.2.5 Collection of Organ Samples	45
3.2.6 Protein Assay	46
3.2.7 Histology Procedure	48
3.2.8 Lesion Scoring	48



	3.2.9 Statistical Analysis	51
3.3	Results	52
	3.3.1 Changes in Body Weight	52
	3.3.2 Mean Liver and Kidney Weight	54
	3.3.3 Mean Total Protein	60
	3.3.4 Total Protein Plasma (ALP and ALT)	69
	3.3.5 Mean Lesion Scores	81
	3.3.6 Morphological Study	81
3.4	Discussion	102
4	<i>IN VITRO</i> CYTOTOXICITY OF NSAIDs ON NORMAL RAT HEPATOCYTES	107
4.1	Introduction	107
4.2	Materials and Methods	109
	4.2.1 Compounds	109
	4.2.2 Animals	109
	4.2.3 Methods	110
	4.2.4 Statistical Analysis	112
4.3	Results	112
	4.3.1 <i>In Vitro</i> Cytotoxicity of NSAIDs	112
4.4	Discussion	126
5	<i>IN VITRO</i> CYTOTOXICITY OF NSAIDs ON PHENOBARBITAL-INDUCED RAT HEPATOCYTES	129
5.1	Introduction	129
5.2	Materials and Methods	131
	5.2.1 Compounds	131
	5.2.2 Animals	131
	5.2.3 Methods	132
	5.2.4 Statistical Analysis	134
5.3	Results	134
	5.3.1 <i>In Vitro</i> Cytotoxicity of Piroxicam and Mefenamic Acid on PB-induced Rat Hepatocytes	134
	5.3.2 Comparison Between Phenobarbital-induced and Normal Rat Hepatocytes After Treated With Piroxicam and Mefenamic Acid	149
5.4	Discussion	167
6	<i>IN VITRO</i> EFFECT OF NSAIDs ON CANCER CELLS	170
6.1	Introduction	170
6.2	Materials and Methods	172
	6.2.1 Compounds	172
	6.2.2 Methods	173
	6.2.3 Statistical Analysis	175
6.3	Results	175
	6.3.1 Effects of Piroxicam on Cancer Cells	175
	6.3.2 Effects of Mefenamic Acid on Cancer Cells	180



6.3.3	The Cytotoxic Effects of Piroxicam and Mefenamic Acid on Cancer Cells in Comparison	183
6.4	Discussion	192
7	GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	196
8	RECOMMENDATION	200
	REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	203
	APPENDICES	224
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	225



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Commonly Available Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), According to Chemical Class	7
3.1	The treatment group of rats	42
3.2	The degree of severity in liver	49
3.3	The degree of severity in kidney	50
3.4	The degree of severity in gastrointestinal tract	51
3.5	Mean body weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	53
3.6	Mean body weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	54
3.7	Mean plasma ALP and ALT levels in rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid pre- and post-treatment	74
3.8	Mean plasma ALP and ALT levels in rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid pre- and post-treatment	80
3.9	Effect of piroxicam on samples at different groups and doses	84
3.10	Effect of mefenamic acid on samples at different groups and doses	85
3.11	Effect of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on samples at different doses for the acute group	86
3.12	Effect of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on samples at different doses for the chronic group	87
4.1	Time-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Piroxicam at different time points	122
4.2	Time-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Mefenamic Acid at different time points	123
4.3	Dose-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Piroxicam at different time points	124
4.4	Dose-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Mefenamic Acid at different time points	125



5.1	Time-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Piroxicam at different time points	145
5.2	Time-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Mefenamic Acid at different time points	146
5.3	Dose-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Piroxicam at different time points	147
5.4	Dose-dependent viability of rat hepatocytes during incubation with various concentrations of Mefenamic Acid at different time points	148
6.1	HCT 116 colon cancer cell's viability treated with different concentrations of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	188
6.2	Caco 2 colon cancer cell's viability treated with different concentrations of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	189
6.3	MCF-7 breast cancer cell's viability treated with different concentrations of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	190
6.4	Hep G2 liver cancer cell's viability treated with different concentrations of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	191



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2.1	Cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways of arachidonic acid metabolism	16
2.2	Chemical structure of piroxicam	31
2.3	Chemical structure of mefenamic acid	35
3.1	Mean body weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	52
3.2	Mean body weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	53
3.3	Mean liver weight of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	55
3.4	Mean liver weight of rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	55
3.5	Mean kidney weight of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	56
3.6	Mean kidney weight of rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	56
3.7	Mean liver weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	57
3.8	Mean liver weight of rats treated with repeated -doses of mefenamic acid	58
3.9	Mean kidney weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	59
3.10	Mean kidney weight of rats treated with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	59
3.11	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	61
3.12	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	62
3.13	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	63
3.14	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	63
3.15	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	64



3.16	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	64
3.17	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	66
3.18	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	66
3.19	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam	67
3.20	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	67
3.21	The mean protein levels in liver of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	68
3.22	The mean protein levels in kidney of rats treated with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	68
3.23	The mean plasma ALP levels in rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	70
3.24	The mean plasma ALP levels in rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	70
3.25	The mean plasma ALT levels in rats treated with single-dose of piroxicam	71
3.26	The mean plasma ALT levels in rats treated with single-dose of mefenamic acid	71
3.27	The mean plasma ALP levels of pre-treated rats with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	72
3.28	The mean plasma ALP levels of post-treated rats with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	72
3.29	The mean plasma ALT levels of pre-treated rats with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	73
3.30	The mean plasma ALT levels of post-treated rats with single-dose of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	73
3.31	The mean plasma ALP levels in rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam	76



3.32	The mean plasma ALP levels in rats with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	76
3.33	The mean plasma ALT levels in rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam	77
3.34	The mean plasma ALT levels in rats with repeated-doses of mefenamic acid	77
3.35	The mean plasma ALP levels of pre-treated rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	78
3.36	The mean plasma ALP levels of post-treated rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	78
3.37	The mean plasma ALT levels of pre-treated rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	79
3.38	The mean plasma ALT levels of post-treated rats with repeated-doses of piroxicam and mefenamic acid	79
3.39	Light photomicrograph of a section of liver's lobule from normal non-treated rat (x400)	88
3.40	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	88
3.41	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg mefenamic acid (x400)	89
3.42	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg mefenamic acid (x400)	89
3.43	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg piroxicam and mefenamic acid (x400)	90
3.44	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg mefenamic acid (x400)	90
3.45	Light photomicrograph of rat's liver treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg mefenamic acid (x400)	91
3.46	Light photomicrograph of kidney from normal non-treated rat (x400)	92
3.47	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	92

3.48	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg piroxicam and mefenamic acid (x400)	93
3.49	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	93
3.50	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam and mefenamic acid (x400)	94
3.51	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam and mefenamic acid (x400)	94
3.52	Light photomicrograph of rat's kidney treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg mefenamic acid (x400)	95
3.53	Light photomicrograph of stomach from normal non-treated rat (x400)	96
3.54	Light photomicrograph of stomach from normal non-treated rat (x400)	96
3.55	Light photomicrograph of rat's stomach with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	97
3.56	Light photomicrograph of rat's stomach with repeated-doses of 50mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	97
3.57	Light photomicrograph of duodenum from normal non-treated rat	98
3.58	Light photomicrograph of rat's duodenum treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	98
3.59	Light photomicrograph of rat's duodenum treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	99
3.60	Light photomicrograph of rat's duodenum treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	99
3.61	Light photomicrograph of colon from normal non-treated rat (x400)	100
3.62	Light photomicrograph of colon from normal non-treated rat (x400)	100
3.63	Light photomicrograph of rat's colon treated with repeated-doses of 100mg/kg piroxicam (x400)	101
4.1	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.0001 mM	114



4.2	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.001 mM	114
4.3	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.01 mM	115
4.4	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.1 mM	115
4.5	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 1.0 mM	116
4.6	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.25 hr	117
4.7	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.5 hr	117
4.8	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.75 hr	118
4.9	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 1 hr	118
4.10	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 2 hrs	119
4.11	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 3 hrs	119
4.12	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 4 hrs	120
4.13	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 5 hrs	120
4.14	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 6 hrs	121
5.1	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.0001 mM	137
5.2	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.001 mM	137
5.3	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.01 mM	138



5.4	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.1 mM	138
5.5	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 1.0 mM	139
5.6	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.25 hr	140
5.7	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.5 hr	140
5.8	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 0.75 hr	141
5.9	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 1 hr	141
5.10	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 2 hrs	142
5.11	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 3 hrs	142
5.12	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 4 hrs	143
5.13	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 5 hrs	143
5.14	Dose-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam and mefenamic acid on rat hepatocytes at 6 hrs	144
5.15	Comparison between control of Phenobarbital-induced and normal rat hepatocytes suspension after treatment with piroxicam and mefenamic acid	149
5.16	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam on Phenobarbital-induced and normal rat hepatocytes at 0.0001 mM	151
5.17	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam on Phenobarbital-induced and normal rat hepatocytes at 0.001 mM	152
5.18	Time-dependent cytotoxicity of piroxicam on Phenobarbital-induced and normal rat hepatocytes at 0.01 mM	152

