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## Research Article

# Utilization of Black Berry Juice to Reduce the Oxidative Stress in Rats Treated with Acrylamide

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## Abstract

**Background and Objective:** Acrylamide is carcinogenic and mutagenic to experimental animals. Also, it has neurotoxic effect of animals and humans. The aim of study was to investigate the effects of different doses of acrylamide and black berry on free radicals and antioxidant enzyme activities in male rats. **Materials and Methods:** Animals were assigned at random to one of the following treatments: group 1 served as control, group 2 was treated with black berry juice 9 mL kg<sup>-1</sup> b.wt., while groups 3, 4 and 5 were treated with 120, 600 and 1200 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.wt., of acrylamide, respectively in drinking water for 10 weeks. Groups 6, 7 and 8 were treated with those doses of acrylamide and black berry juice. **Results:** The results showed that acrylamide increase thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS), while decrease the activities of GSH and antioxidant enzyme (Catalase, SOD, GST and GPX) in liver, kidney, brain, lung and testes compared to control group. Black berry decrease of acrylamide risk. **Conclusion:** The present results showed that different doses of acrylamide exerted deterioration effects on enzyme activities and free radicals in a dose-dependent manner. Black berry protection in all organs effects of acrylamide.

**Key words:** Acrylamide, black berry, lipid oxidation, antioxidant enzymes

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**Competing Interest:** The authors have declared that no competing interest exists.

**Data Availability:** All relevant data are within the paper and its supporting information files.

## INTRODUCTION

In April, 2002, the Swedish National Food Administration (SNFA) and the University of Stockholm together reported that processed carbohydrate-rich foods that are fried or baked at relatively high temperature may contain considerable levels of acrylamide<sup>1,2</sup>. Potato products (such as potato chips, french fries and hash browns), bread, biscuits and cereal were among the food items containing the highest amounts of acrylamide<sup>1</sup>. Acrylamide contains an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated system that reacts with nucleophilic compounds via a Michael addition. The major site of reaction is in reduced glutathione and in proteins, cysteine with sulfhydryl groups, although acrylamide may also react with other amino groups to a lesser extent such as those at the N-terminal position of the protein and amino acids<sup>3,4</sup>. After ingestion, acrylamide is rapidly distributed through the whole body via the bloodstream. It can be found in the thymus, liver, heart, brain, kidneys<sup>5</sup> and even in human breast milk<sup>6</sup>. Acrylamide has been classified as a group 2A carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer<sup>7</sup> and a Category 2 carcinogen and Category 2 mutagen by the European Union. This finding has caused worldwide concern<sup>8,9</sup>. Several studies in rodents support the evidence that acrylamide is a multi-organ carcinogen, being able to cause tumors to many organs such as lung, uterus, skin, mammalian gland, brain etc<sup>10</sup>. Black berry (*Morus nigra*) contain large amounts of flavonoid pigments (anthocyanins) that give blackberries their characteristic red to blue color<sup>11</sup>. Black berry is rich in antioxidants: (vitamin C, vitamin E, anthocyanins, ellagitannins and some minor proanthocyanidins). However, anthocyanins have the biggest contributions to the antioxidant capacity<sup>12-15</sup>. They have anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and, therefore, may be potentially used to combat oxidative stress<sup>16,11</sup>. On the other hand, tropical red-black berries contain cyanidin-3-glucoside<sup>17,18</sup>, which has one of the highest Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC)<sup>19</sup>. In addition, seed extract enhances the levels of reduced glutathione and the activity of natural antioxidant enzymes, such as glutathione S-transferase, superoxide dismutase and catalase<sup>20</sup>. Fresh fruit of blackberry has a good effect on human body through protection the integrity of cells and the internal structure of cells, avoiding destruction of some enzymes and internal components of cells. These contents have antioxidants and it can improve immunity, play an antagonistic role of protective agent from toxic substances<sup>21</sup>. Furthermore, previous studies examined the anti-oxidative activity of phenolic extracts from edible and non-edible plant materials (berries, fruits, vegetables, herbs, cereals, tree materials, plant sprouts and

seeds) and reported remarkable high anti-oxidant activity and high total phenolic contents especially berries<sup>22,23</sup>. Due to the harmful effects of acrylamide, which have been studied in many previous studies, this study find that the available data on the effect of acrylamide on the body's internal organs are very few, as well as the role of antioxidants in reducing the negative effects of acrylamide on the internal organs of the body. Therefore, the present study was carried out to investigate the antioxidant effect of blackberry juice on experimental animals treated with different doses of acrylamide.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Chemicals:** Acrylamide ( $C_3H_5NO$ , >99% purity) was used in the present study. Acrylamide was purchased from Sigma Chemical Company. Fresh black berry fruits were obtained from local market (Alexandria, Egypt), washed, homogenized and its juice was daily freshly prepared. The dose of black berry juice (BBJ) ( $1.6 \text{ g kg}^{-1} \text{ b.wt.}$ , equal to  $9 \text{ mL kg}^{-1} \text{ b.wt.}$ , which containing 5 mg active constituent; anthocyanin) was selected according to the previous studies of Hassan and Yousef<sup>24</sup>.

**Animals:** Sixty-four male albino rats, ten weeks old and weighing  $127 \pm 3.87 \text{ g}$  were used. Animals were obtained from the animal house of the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR), Alexandria University, Alexandria, Egypt. The local committee in Alexandria University, Egypt, approved the design of the experiments and the protocol conforms to the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Experimental design:** Animals were housed 4 per cage and kept on basal diet (consisted of 37.5% dried skim milk, 9% corn oil, 30% corn starch, 13.5% sucrose, 5% cellulose, 1% vitamin mixture and 4% mineral mixture<sup>25</sup>) and tap water was provided *ad libitum*. The animals were housed in plastic cages with sawdust bedding and maintained in an air-conditioned animal house at a controlled temperature ( $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) and relative humidity ( $60 \pm 10\%$ ) with a photoperiod of 12 h light/12 h dark<sup>26</sup>. After 2 weeks of acclimatization, the animals were divided into 8 equal groups, 8 animals in each group (Fig. 1).

- Group 1 was used as a control
- Group 2 was daily orally treated with blackberry juice by ( $9 \text{ mL kg}^{-1} \text{ b.wt.}$ )
- Group 3, 4 and 5 were treated with acrylamide ( $120, 600$  and  $1200 \text{ } \mu\text{g kg}^{-1} \text{ b.wt.}$ , respectively) dissolved in tap water

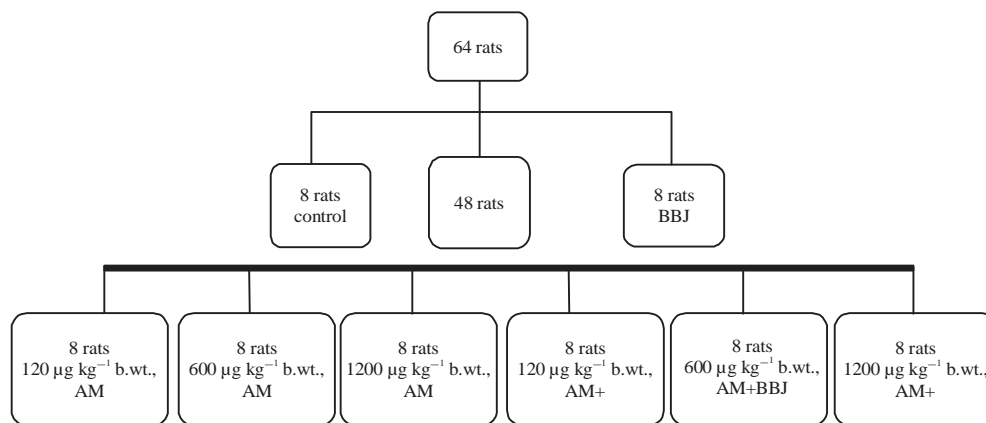


Fig. 1: Experiment design

- Group 6, 7 and 8 were treated with acrylamide solution (120, 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.) plus orally given black berry juice (9 mL  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.). Animals were daily treated with the tested doses of acrylamide and black berry juice for 10 weeks

**Measured parameters:** At the end of the experimental period (after 10 weeks) rats were anesthetized with ether and sacrificed. Brain, kidney, liver, lung and testes were removed and washed with saline solution and homogenized (10%, w/v) in ice-cold sodium, potassium phosphate buffer (0.01 M, pH 7.4) containing 1.15% KCl in a Potter-Elvehjem type homogenizer. The homogenate was centrifuged at  $10,000 \times g$  for 20 min at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  and the resultant supernatant was kept for further analysis. Brain, kidney, liver, lung and testes kidney thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) were measured at 532 nm by using 2-thiobarbituric acid (2, 6-dihydroxypyrimidine-2-thiol; TBA). An extinction coefficient of  $156,000 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  was used for calculation<sup>27</sup>. Brain, kidney, liver, lung and testes glutathione reduced (GSH) was determined according to the method of Jollow *et al.*<sup>28</sup>. Catalase (CAT; EC 1.11.1.6) activity was determined using the Luck method involving the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide<sup>29</sup>. Superoxide dismutase (SOD; EC 1.15.1.1) activity was measured in different tissue organs according to Mishra and Fridovich<sup>30</sup>. Glutathione S-transferase (GST; EC 2.5.1.18) activity was determined according to Habig *et al.*<sup>31</sup>, using para-nitrobenzyl chloride as a substrate. The activity of Glutathione peroxidase (GPx, EC. 1.1.1.9) was assayed by the method of Chiu *et al.*<sup>32</sup>.

**Statistical analysis:** Data were analyzed as a completely randomized design<sup>33</sup> using the General Linear Model procedure of SAS<sup>34</sup>. Dunnett *post hoc* analysis was used

to compare means of treatment groups against the control. The  $p < 0.05$  were accepted as significant.

## RESULTS

**General toxicity of acrylamide exposure:** The present results showed that no mortality was observed on rats after exposure to all tested doses of acrylamide (120, 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.). Clinical signs of general toxicity were observed at the 8th week of exposure to 1200  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt. and at the 10th week of exposure to both 1200  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., combined with black berry juice together. Also, the rats became weak and dragged their hind legs of both groups of 1200  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., alone and the combination group. While, no clinical signs were observed after exposure to 120 and 600  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt. and 120 and 600  $\mu\text{g}$  AM  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., combined black berry juice during the entire period of treatment.

**Effect of acrylamide and black berry on the levels of free radicals in tissues of rats:** Table 1 presented the results of thiobarbituric acid reacting substance (TBARS) in all organs of rats treated with acrylamide, blackberry and their combination. Treatment with acrylamide alone caused significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in the level of TBARS in brain, liver, lung and testes with all doses (120, 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.) and caused significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in kidney with the doses of 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., acrylamide. On the other hand, the results showed that the TBARS levels were significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) decrease in rats received blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, the treatment with black berry and acrylamide together in the

Table 1: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on TBARS (nmol g<sup>-1</sup> tissue) in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry	120	600	1200	120	600	1200
		juice (BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)
Brain	52.1±3.19 <sup>d</sup>	41.0±3.09 <sup>a(-21)*</sup>	59.9±3.92 <sup>bc(15)*</sup>	65.3±3.46 <sup>b(25)*</sup>	74.2±3.45 <sup>a(42)*</sup>	55.3±2.63 <sup>cd(6)*</sup>	58.3±2.46 <sup>bcd(12)*</sup>	64.7±2.95 <sup>b(24)*</sup>
Kidney	55.3±3.17 <sup>c</sup>	43.7±2.98 <sup>d(-21)*</sup>	60.0±2.52 <sup>bc(9)*</sup>	65.9±2.22 <sup>b(19)*</sup>	75.7±3.31 <sup>a(37)*</sup>	57.1±3.15 <sup>c(3)*</sup>	60.7±2.27 <sup>bc(10)*</sup>	66.4±3.45 <sup>b(20)*</sup>
Liver	54.7±2.15 <sup>e</sup>	43.7±3.58 <sup>f(-20)*</sup>	62.9±3.14 <sup>cd(15)*</sup>	71.5±2.86 <sup>b(31)*</sup>	79.3±3.30 <sup>a(45)*</sup>	56.7±2.90 <sup>dc(4)*</sup>	63.7±2.34 <sup>cd(16)*</sup>	68.6±4.29 <sup>bc(25)*</sup>
Lung	63.2±4.27 <sup>d</sup>	51.2±2.65 <sup>e(-19)*</sup>	71.2±2.56 <sup>bc(13)*</sup>	76.9±2.63 <sup>b(22)*</sup>	86.1±3.27 <sup>a(36)*</sup>	65.1±3.27 <sup>cd(3)*</sup>	70.3±2.60 <sup>bcd(11)*</sup>	72.7±3.91 <sup>b(15)*</sup>
Testes	56.5±2.35 <sup>c</sup>	46.0±2.69 <sup>d(-19)*</sup>	64.6±2.81 <sup>b(14)*</sup>	73.5±4.98 <sup>ab(30)*</sup>	79.3±2.53 <sup>a(40)*</sup>	58.6±2.26 <sup>c(4)*</sup>	66.7±4.06 <sup>b(18)*</sup>	70.5±3.57 <sup>b(25)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means ± SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group, TBARS: Thiobarbituric acid reacting substance

Table 2: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on GSH in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry	120	600	1200	120	600	1200
		juice (BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)
Brain	28.3±1.08 <sup>bc</sup>	34.1±2.23 <sup>a(20)*</sup>	25.0±1.60 <sup>cd(-12)*</sup>	22.6±1.40 <sup>cd(-20)*</sup>	19.4±1.30 <sup>e(-31)*</sup>	28.8±1.30 <sup>b(2)*</sup>	25.8±1.48 <sup>bcd(-9)*</sup>	25.0±1.32 <sup>cd(-12)*</sup>
Kidney	27.4±1.34 <sup>b</sup>	33.7±2.50 <sup>a(23)*</sup>	22.7±1.21 <sup>c(-17)*</sup>	21.6±1.67 <sup>cd(-21)*</sup>	18.8±1.26 <sup>d(-31)*</sup>	25.2±1.53 <sup>bc(-8)*</sup>	24.3±1.56 <sup>bc(-11)*</sup>	22.7±1.60 <sup>c(-17)*</sup>
Liver	27.0±1.20 <sup>b</sup>	33.4±2.81 <sup>a(24)*</sup>	23.7±1.24 <sup>bc(-12)*</sup>	21.0±1.95 <sup>c(-22)*</sup>	16.3±1.31 <sup>d(-7)*</sup>	25.1±1.34 <sup>b(-7)*</sup>	23.3±1.87 <sup>bc(-14)*</sup>	20.0±1.56 <sup>cd(-26)*</sup>
Lung	28.4±1.68 <sup>b</sup>	36.7±2.45 <sup>a(29)*</sup>	26.4±1.28 <sup>bc(-7)*</sup>	23.9±1.36 <sup>cd(-16)*</sup>	20.3±1.06 <sup>d(-29)*</sup>	28.2±1.64 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	25.8±1.59 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	24.4±1.20 <sup>c(-14)*</sup>
Testes	30.4±1.26 <sup>b</sup>	38.1±2.19 <sup>a(25)*</sup>	27.4±1.10 <sup>bc(-10)*</sup>	24.3±1.40 <sup>cd(-20)*</sup>	18.5±1.08 <sup>e(-39)*</sup>	30.0±1.89 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	27.0±1.55 <sup>bc(-11)*</sup>	22.1±1.12 <sup>d(-27)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means ± SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group, GSH: Reduced glutathione

Table 3: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on catalase in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry	120	600	1200	120	600	1200
		juice (BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)	(µg AM/kg BW+BBj)
Brain	54.7±2.85 <sup>b</sup>	67.1±3.52 <sup>a(23)*</sup>	51.8±3.65 <sup>b(-5)*</sup>	44.5±2.51 <sup>c(-19)*</sup>	36.9±2.08 <sup>d(-33)*</sup>	54.8±1.70 <sup>b(0)*</sup>	49.6±2.69 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	43.5±2.90 <sup>c(-21)*</sup>
Kidney	66.4±2.04 <sup>b</sup>	77.8±2.25 <sup>a(17)*</sup>	60.7±3.09 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	52.3±3.70 <sup>de(-21)*</sup>	44.8±2.96 <sup>e(-33)*</sup>	65.6±3.76 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	60.5±3.80 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	54.8±4.75 <sup>cd(-18)*</sup>
Liver	45.2±2.94 <sup>b</sup>	57.6±4.04 <sup>a(27)*</sup>	43.0±2.42 <sup>bc(-5)*</sup>	36.6±2.60 <sup>cd(-19)*</sup>	29.7±2.76 <sup>e(-34)*</sup>	45.1±3.26 <sup>b(0)*</sup>	40.9±2.51 <sup>bcd(-9)*</sup>	36.1±2.09 <sup>de(-20)*</sup>
Lung	56.0±3.92 <sup>b</sup>	72.4±3.72 <sup>a(29)*</sup>	52.6±2.94 <sup>b(-6)*</sup>	43.4±2.40 <sup>cd(-22)*</sup>	37.6±2.34 <sup>d(-33)*</sup>	55.7±2.09 <sup>b(0)*</sup>	50.5±3.87 <sup>bc(-10)*</sup>	43.1±2.84 <sup>d(-23)*</sup>
Testes	60.0±3.79 <sup>b</sup>	75.0±3.95 <sup>a(25)*</sup>	57.2±2.30 <sup>b(-5)*</sup>	49.7±2.47 <sup>c(-17)*</sup>	39.4±2.32 <sup>d(-34)*</sup>	59.5±2.15 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	55.0±3.50 <sup>bc(-8)*</sup>	48.6±2.61 <sup>c(-19)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means ± SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group

combination group showed reduced the increase in TBARS levels compared to control. The protective effect of black berry was pronounced as follows: Low>medium>high doses of acrylamide.

### Effect of acrylamide and black berry on the levels of glutathione reduced in tissues of rats:

Data presented in Table 2 showed the changes in glutathione reduced (GSH) levels after treatment with acrylamide, blackberry juice and their combination. Animals treated with acrylamide alone exhibited a significant (p<0.05) decrease in GSH with all doses of acrylamide (120, 600 and 1200 µg kg<sup>-1</sup>) in brain and kidney and caused significant (p<0.05) decrease in GSH with the doses of 600 and 1200 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.wt., acrylamide in liver, lung and testes. Meanwhile, the results showed that there was a significant (p>0.05) increase in rats received

blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, the presence of black berry with acrylamide in the combination group showed that blackberry reduced the decrease in GSH compared with control except the high dose (1200 µg kg<sup>-1</sup> b.wt.). Black berry showed capability to alleviate the toxic effect of acrylamide with the low dose more than the medium and high dose.

### Effect of acrylamide and black berry on the levels of the activities of antioxidant enzymes in tissues of rats:

Table 3 showed that catalase activity was significantly (p<0.05) decreased in brain, kidney, liver, lung and testes in rats treated with 600 and 1200 µg acrylamide kg<sup>-1</sup> b.wt. On the other side, no significant (p>0.05) differences in rats received blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, the presence of black berry with acrylamide in the

Table 4: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on SOD (Units/mg protein) in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry juice (BBj)	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )
Brain	19.5 $\pm$ 1.54 <sup>b</sup>	24.2 $\pm$ 1.20 <sup>a(24)*</sup>	18.3 $\pm$ 1.12 <sup>bc(-7)*</sup>	15.3 $\pm$ 1.22 <sup>cd(-21)*</sup>	13.1 $\pm$ 1.03 <sup>e(-33)*</sup>	19.3 $\pm$ 1.30 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	17.4 $\pm$ 1.05 <sup>bcd(-11)*</sup>	15.4 $\pm$ 1.23 <sup>cde(-21)*</sup>
Kidney	15.8 $\pm$ 1.07 <sup>b</sup>	19.5 $\pm$ 1.38 <sup>a(24)*</sup>	14.5 $\pm$ 1.08 <sup>bc(-8)*</sup>	12.1 $\pm$ 0.90 <sup>cd(-23)*</sup>	10.3 $\pm$ 0.71 <sup>d(-35)*</sup>	15.4 $\pm$ 1.00 <sup>b(-2)*</sup>	14.0 $\pm$ 1.10 <sup>bc(-11)*</sup>	13.4 $\pm$ 1.10 <sup>bc(-15)*</sup>
Liver	16.1 $\pm$ 1.35 <sup>b</sup>	21.4 $\pm$ 1.75 <sup>a(33)*</sup>	15.2 $\pm$ 1.42 <sup>b(-6)*</sup>	14.0 $\pm$ 1.01 <sup>bc(-13)*</sup>	11.4 $\pm$ 1.08 <sup>c(-29)*</sup>	16.0 $\pm$ 1.33 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	15.1 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>b(-6)*</sup>	13.4 $\pm$ 1.18 <sup>bc(-17)*</sup>
Lung	27.0 $\pm$ 1.43 <sup>b</sup>	35.3 $\pm$ 1.50 <sup>a(30)*</sup>	25.5 $\pm$ 1.85 <sup>bc(-6)*</sup>	23.5 $\pm$ 1.08 <sup>cd(-13)*</sup>	18.5 $\pm$ 1.08 <sup>e(-32)*</sup>	26.9 $\pm$ 1.64 <sup>bc(-1)*</sup>	25.4 $\pm$ 1.47 <sup>bc(-6)*</sup>	21.2 $\pm$ 1.39 <sup>de(-21)*</sup>
Testes	27.6 $\pm$ 1.16 <sup>b</sup>	35.7 $\pm$ 2.23 <sup>a(29)*</sup>	25.6 $\pm$ 1.24 <sup>bc(-7)*</sup>	22.7 $\pm$ 1.23 <sup>c(-18)*</sup>	18.6 $\pm$ 1.08 <sup>d(-33)*</sup>	27.0 $\pm$ 1.21 <sup>b(-2)*</sup>	25.3 $\pm$ 1.34 <sup>bc(-8)*</sup>	23.1 $\pm$ 1.16 <sup>c(-16)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means $\pm$ SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group, SOD: Superoxide dismutase

Table 5: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on GST ( $\mu\text{mol/h/mg protein}$ ) in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry juice (BBj)	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )
Brain	1.02 $\pm$ 0.048 <sup>b</sup>	1.37 $\pm$ 0.044 <sup>a(33)*</sup>	0.94 $\pm$ 0.043 <sup>b(-9)*</sup>	0.80 $\pm$ 0.070 <sup>c(-22)*</sup>	0.66 $\pm$ 0.034 <sup>d(-36)*</sup>	1.01 $\pm$ 0.057 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	0.90 $\pm$ 0.075 <sup>bc(-12)*</sup>	0.78 $\pm$ 0.053 <sup>cd(-24)*</sup>
Kidney	1.29 $\pm$ 0.050 <sup>b</sup>	1.71 $\pm$ 0.085 <sup>a(33)*</sup>	1.16 $\pm$ 0.047 <sup>bc(-10)*</sup>	1.02 $\pm$ 0.080 <sup>cd(-21)*</sup>	0.90 $\pm$ 0.045 <sup>d(-31)*</sup>	1.25 $\pm$ 0.075 <sup>b(-3)*</sup>	1.15 $\pm$ 0.042 <sup>bc(-11)*</sup>	1.08 $\pm$ 0.052 <sup>cd(-17)*</sup>
Liver	1.59 $\pm$ 0.051 <sup>b</sup>	2.12 $\pm$ 0.190 <sup>a(33)*</sup>	1.38 $\pm$ 0.059 <sup>bc(-13)*</sup>	1.22 $\pm$ 0.050 <sup>cd(-24)*</sup>	1.06 $\pm$ 0.069 <sup>d(-34)*</sup>	1.50 $\pm$ 0.076 <sup>bc(-6)*</sup>	1.38 $\pm$ 0.075 <sup>cd(-14)*</sup>	1.36 $\pm$ 0.073 <sup>cd(-15)*</sup>
Lung	1.24 $\pm$ 0.077 <sup>b</sup>	1.56 $\pm$ 0.070 <sup>a(26)*</sup>	1.09 $\pm$ 0.079 <sup>bc(-12)*</sup>	0.960 $\pm$ 0.0678 <sup>cd(-22)*</sup>	0.843 $\pm$ 0.0573 <sup>d(-32)*</sup>	1.23 $\pm$ 0.062 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	1.10 $\pm$ 0.059 <sup>bc(-11)*</sup>	0.984 $\pm$ 0.0580 <sup>cd(-21)*</sup>
Testes	1.48 $\pm$ 0.063 <sup>b</sup>	1.81 $\pm$ 0.050 <sup>a(22)*</sup>	1.36 $\pm$ 0.057 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	1.18 $\pm$ 0.053 <sup>cd(-20)*</sup>	0.945 $\pm$ 0.0557 <sup>d(-36)*</sup>	1.46 $\pm$ 0.046 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	1.36 $\pm$ 0.080 <sup>bc(-8)*</sup>	1.27 $\pm$ 0.050 <sup>cd(-15)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means $\pm$ SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group, GST: Glutathione-S transferases

Table 6: Effect of different doses of acrylamide (AM) and black berry (BBj) on GPX in tissues of male rats

Experimental groups								
Parameters	Control	Black berry juice (BBj)	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW}$ )	120 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	600 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )	1200 ( $\mu\text{g AM/kg BW+BBj}$ )
Brain	232.0 $\pm$ 13.7 <sup>b</sup>	304.0 $\pm$ 20.3 <sup>a(31)*</sup>	209.0 $\pm$ 11.0 <sup>bcd(-10)*</sup>	184.0 $\pm$ 10.9 <sup>de(-21)*</sup>	160.0 $\pm$ 10.1 <sup>e(-31)*</sup>	225.0 $\pm$ 11.0 <sup>bc(-3)*</sup>	209.0 $\pm$ 11.3 <sup>bcd(-10)*</sup>	200.0 $\pm$ 12.1 <sup>cd(-14)*</sup>
Kidney	237.0 $\pm$ 12.5 <sup>b</sup>	287.0 $\pm$ 17.5 <sup>a(21)*</sup>	220.0 $\pm$ 13.7 <sup>bc(-7)*</sup>	193.0 $\pm$ 12.2 <sup>cd(-18)*</sup>	168.0 $\pm$ 11.7 <sup>d(-29)*</sup>	233.0 $\pm$ 14.1 <sup>b(-1)*</sup>	216.0 $\pm$ 13.1 <sup>bc(-9)*</sup>	199.0 $\pm$ 12.5 <sup>c(-16)*</sup>
Liver	341.0 $\pm$ 12.4 <sup>b</sup>	455.0 $\pm$ 23.9 <sup>a(33)*</sup>	300.0 $\pm$ 25.0 <sup>bcd(-12)*</sup>	256.0 $\pm$ 20.8 <sup>d(-25)*</sup>	207.0 $\pm$ 10.2 <sup>e(-39)*</sup>	321.0 $\pm$ 20.2 <sup>bc(-6)*</sup>	288.0 $\pm$ 20.0 <sup>cd(-16)*</sup>	273.0 $\pm$ 24.9 <sup>d(-20)*</sup>
Lung	292.0 $\pm$ 18.3 <sup>b</sup>	377.0 $\pm$ 13.9 <sup>a(29)*</sup>	262.0 $\pm$ 15.2 <sup>bc(-10)*</sup>	222.0 $\pm$ 13.7 <sup>d(-24)*</sup>	175.0 $\pm$ 12.1 <sup>e(-40)*</sup>	285.0 $\pm$ 15.3 <sup>bc(-2)*</sup>	252.0 $\pm$ 12.1 <sup>cd(-14)*</sup>	223.0 $\pm$ 11.8 <sup>d(-23)*</sup>
Testes	263.0 $\pm$ 13.0 <sup>b</sup>	338.0 $\pm$ 18.9 <sup>a(28)*</sup>	233.0 $\pm$ 13.5 <sup>cd(-11)*</sup>	206.0 $\pm$ 9.5 <sup>d(-22)*</sup>	171.0 $\pm$ 8.6 <sup>e(-35)*</sup>	257.0 $\pm$ 11.9 <sup>bc(-2)*</sup>	235.0 $\pm$ 14.0 <sup>cd(-11)*</sup>	214.0 $\pm$ 10.9 <sup>d(-19)*</sup>

Values are expressed as Means $\pm$ SE, n = 8 for each treatment group, Mean values within a row not sharing a common superscript letters (a, b, c, d, e) were significantly different, p<0.05, \*Percentage of control group, GPX: Glutathione peroxidase

combination group showed reduced the decrease in the catalase activity compared with control except the high dose (1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.). Black berry showed capability to alleviate the toxic effect of acrylamide with the low dose more than the medium and high dose. Table 4 presented the effect of treatment with acrylamide, blackberry and their combination on superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity in rats organs tissues. Animals treated with acrylamide alone caused significant (p<0.05) decrease in SOD with the doses of 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., acrylamide in brain, kidney, lung and testes and caused significant (p<0.05) decrease in liver with high doses of acrylamide (1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ). On the other hand, SOD activity was significant (p>0.05) increase in rats received blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, when the black berry combined with acrylamide reduced the decrease in SOD compared with control except at high dose (1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., in brain, lung and testes). The protective effect of blackberry was pronounced with the low dose of acrylamide then with the medium dose and then with the high dose.

Table 5 presented the results of glutathione-S transferases (GST) in all organs tissues of rats treated with acrylamide, blackberry and their combination. Animals treated with acrylamide alone caused significant (p<0.05) decrease in GST with the doses of 600 and 1200  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt., acrylamide. On the other hand, the treatment with blackberry juice alone significantly (p>0.05) increased GST activity compared to control. The presence of blackberry in the combination group improved GST activity compared with control at low acrylamide dose (120  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$  b.wt.). From this result it can be concluded that the black berry showed capability to alleviate the toxic effect of acrylamide with the low dose more than the medium and high dose. The effect of treated with acrylamide black berry on glutathione peroxidase (GPX) of rats organs were showed in Table 6. Animals treated with acrylamide alone caused significant (p<0.05) decrease in GPX with all doses of acrylamide. There were a significant (p<0.05) decrease in GSH values in rats organs after treatment with all doses of acrylamide. On the other hand, the results showed that there is a significant (p<0.05) increase in rats

received blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, the oral intake of black berry in combination group reduced the decrease in GPX activity in rats organs at all doses of acrylamide.

## DISCUSSION

Acrylamide contents are high in fried and starch based foods. Such foods constitute the bulk of dietary global intake. Consequently, concern for acrylamide has become priority issue for most countries<sup>35</sup>. In this study we investigate the effect of giving blackberry juice on experimental animals treated with different doses of acrylamide. The obtained results are in agree with Anonymous<sup>36</sup>, who reported that occupational or experimental exposure to acrylamide produces neurotoxicity characterized by ataxia, weight loss and nerve damage. Also, Yousef and El-Demerdash<sup>37</sup> found that clinical signs of general toxicity were observed at the 7th week of exposure to 250  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt. and at the 8th week of exposure to 500  $\mu\text{g}$   $\text{kg}^{-1}$  b.wt. The rats became weak and dragged their hind legs. While, no clinical signs were observed after exposure to 0.5, 5, 25 or 50  $\mu\text{g}$  acrylamide  $\text{kg}$  b.wt., during the entire period of treatment. Barber and LoPachin<sup>38</sup> reported that the neurological defects associated with acrylamide intoxication are mediated by impaired neurotransmission at central and peripheral synapses. Free radicals are continuously produced *in vivo* and there are number of protective antioxidant enzymes (SOD, catalase, GST, GPX and antioxidant glutathione) for dealing with these toxic substances. Acrylamide is oxidized to glycidamide, a reactive epoxide and undergoes conjugation with glutathione. DNA adducts from glycidamide have been reported following administration of acrylamide<sup>39</sup>. Also, Lamy *et al.*<sup>40</sup> suggested that conjugation to glutathione would lead to a depletion of GSH store, increasing cell oxidative stress and thereby affecting gene expression. The GSH concentration in the human liver is high, ranging from 3 to 5  $\mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$  of liver. Conditions that can decrease GSH levels and hence increase the toxicity of acrylamide at much lower exposure include oxidative stress, which may result in oxidation of GSH to oxidized glutathione (GSSG) and liver damage associated with alcoholic hepatitis and other malignant disorders. According to Odland *et al.*<sup>41</sup>, the rate of protein synthesis as well as GSH levels of neuroblastoma cells decreased on exposure to acrylamide. The resulting depletion GSH could lead to less protection of cell membranes against oxidative stress. Superoxide dismutase, a metallic antioxidant enzyme play an active role during appearance of stress as a result of free

radical generation was found increased in tissues. The increase in SOD activity could be to combat free radical generation during acrylamide toxicity<sup>42</sup>. Yousef and El-Demerdash<sup>37</sup> found significant decrease in the antioxidant enzymes and increase in the level of TBARS of rats treated with acrylamide in different tissue homogenates and this effect was dose-dependent. In that study, the authors detected a reaction between acrylamide and serum albumin or GSH, two of the most abundant thiols in the human body. They demonstrated that reactions with these thiols appear to account for most of acrylamide's elimination from the body. Halliwell<sup>43</sup> had demonstrated that the total pigment extract from black berries (TPEB), which is commonly used as a natural food colorant, is also an excellent natural antioxidant and free radical scavenger. Also, Jiao *et al.*<sup>23</sup> reported that the TPEB may have some antioxidant activities and health benefits related to its high anthocyanin and phenolic content. Also, the present study (Table 1-6) showed that blackberry juice reduced the levels of TBARS and increased the activities of antioxidant enzymes and GSH. Each polyphenol, such as anthocyanin, has different free radical-scavenging activities depending on their chemical structure (position, number and types of substitutions)<sup>44</sup>. The chemical activities of anthocyanins in terms of their reducing properties occur through the donation of electrons or hydrogen to free radicals. They also can act as metal chelators, inhibiting the formation of free radicals catalyzed by transition metals<sup>45</sup>. Tropical red-black berries had one of the highest oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC)<sup>19</sup>. Antioxidants-rich black berry (vitamin C, vitamin E, anthocyanins, ellagitannins and some minor proanthocyanidins). However, anthocyanins have the biggest contributions to the anti-oxidant capacity<sup>12,13</sup>. They have anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties and, therefore, may be potentially used to combat oxidative stress<sup>11</sup>. The anthocyanidins in the blackberry have shown a higher antioxidant activity than vitamins C and E. These compounds are able to capture free radicals by donation of phenolic hydrogen atoms; this is the reason for its anticarcinogenic activity<sup>46</sup>. It has also been reported, a linear correlation between the values of the antioxidant capacity and the anthocyanins content in blackberries it has been described that the berry extracts possess a high scavenging activity towards reactive oxygen species chemically generated<sup>47</sup>. The antioxidant activity of berries is directly proportional to the anthocyanins content<sup>48</sup>. The observed protective effect of blackberry juice in the present study (Table 1-6) may be attributed to synergistic effect of both vitamins C and E for preventing oxidative stress and cell

destruction Hassan and Yousef<sup>24</sup>. Vitamin C and vitamin E are key synergistic anti-oxidants; when vitamin E quenches free radicals, it becomes a vitamin E radical, which then uses vitamin C to return it to its anti-oxidant state and acts as chelating agent<sup>49</sup>. Hassan and Yousef<sup>24</sup> found that the treatment with black berries juice alone significantly decreased the levels of TBARS and nitric oxide (NO) as well as increased total antioxidant capacity (TAC), GSH, SOD and catalase. Also, the presence of black berry juice with sodium fluoride (NaF) alleviated the harmful effects of NaF on most of the measured parameters. This effect may be related to the antioxidant properties of black berry juice. Administration of black berry juice alone caused significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) increase in the activities of SOD and catalase and the levels of GSH of TAC compared to control rats. In addition, a significant recovery relating to SOD, CAT, GSH and TAC was observed in response to the presence of black berry juice with NaF. Oxidative damage to cellular components such as lipids and cell membranes by free radicals and other reactive oxygen species is believed to be associated with the development of a range of degenerative diseases including heart disease, cancer, inflammation, arthritis, immune system decline, brain dysfunction and cataracts<sup>43</sup>.

## CONCLUSION

Animals treated with acrylamide alone caused significant decrease in catalase, superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione-S transferases (GST) and glutathione peroxidase (GPX) activities and reduced glutathione (GSH). On the other hand, the results showed that there was significant increase in rats received blackberry juice alone compared to control. While, the presence of black berry with acrylamide in the combination group showed that blackberry reduced the decrease in the antioxidant enzymes activities and GSH compared with control except the high dose of acrylamide.

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