

عنوان مقاله:

The effect of Hydro-alcoholic extract of leaves of Vitex on the gestation indices of male rats

محل انتشار:

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خلاصه مقاله:

Introduction: Phytoestrogens are some plant compounds with estrogenic biological effects which are found in many nutritional sources as soybean, flaxseed and sesame. Vitexagnus-castus, also called Vitex, owns phytoestrogenic properties. Studies have shown that phytoestrogens have different impacts on the gestation process and reproduction indices. The present study is aimed at investigating the effects of Vitex extract on the gestation indices in the male rat as well as studying its histological properties in the rat's testicles. **Materials and methods:** The hydro-alcoholic extract of Vitex (in three doses of 165, 265 and 365 mg/kg), vehicle (normal saline) and the hydro-alcoholic powder of soybean (120 mg/kg) were respectively given to understudy, vehicle and positive control groups for 49 days. After weighing the rats in the 1st and 49th days, the blood samples of all groups were taken and tested for estradiol levels, testosterone, FSH and LH. Moreover, such reproductive indices as sperm count, sperm motion, and prostate and testicle weight were studied and samples were collected for histological studies. **Results:** Prescription of the hydro-alcoholic extract of Vitex (in three doses of 165, 265 and 365 mg/kg) did not significantly change the rats' weight (P -value= 0.06). Hormonal studies significantly reduced the progesterone, LH and FSH compared to vehicle group (P -value<0.05). In addition, the amount of estradiol was significantly more than the vehicle group and the most effect was observed in 365 mg/kg (P -value=0.02). Histological studies showed the reduction of existing spermatozoa in the seminiferous ducts. **Conclusion:** The Vitex extract has some inhibitive effects on the gestation indices in male rat and due to its destructive effects on the testicle tissues, more studies are required.

کلمات کلیدی:

Phytoestrogen, Vitex, Fertility index, Spermatozoa

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