



Review

Animal models of acute renal failure

Amrit Pal Singh¹, Arunachalam Muthuraman¹, Amteshwar Singh Jaggi¹,
Nirmal Singh¹, Kuldeep Grover¹, Ravi Dhawan²

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences & Drug Research, Punjabi University, Patiala 147002, India

²Khalsa College of Pharmacy, Amritsar (Punjab), India

Correspondence: Nirmal Singh, e-mail: nirmal_puru@rediffmail.com

Abstract:

The animal models are pivotal for understanding the characteristics of acute renal failure (ARF) and development of effective therapy for its optimal management. Since the etiology for induction of renal failure is multifold, therefore, a large number of animal models have been developed to mimic the clinical conditions of renal failure. Glycerol-induced renal failure closely mimics the rhabdomyolysis; ischemia-reperfusion-induced ARF simulate the hemodynamic changes-induced changes in renal functioning; drug-induced such as gentamicin, cisplatin, NSAID, ifosfamide-induced ARF mimics the renal failure due to clinical administration of respective drugs; uranium, potassium dichromate-induced ARF mimics the occupational hazard; S-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine-induced ARF simulate contaminated water-induced renal dysfunction; sepsis-induced ARF mimics the infection-induced renal failure and radiocontrast-induced ARF mimics renal failure in patients during use of radiocontrast media at the time of cardiac catheterization. Since each animal model has been created with specific methodology, therefore, it is essential to describe the model in detail and consequently interpret the results in the context of a specific model.

Key words:

acetaminophen, acute renal failure, cisplatin, gentamicin, glycerol, ischemia-reperfusion injury

Abbreviations: ARF – acute renal failure, ATN – acute tubular necrosis, ATSDR – Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Bcl-xL – B-cell lymphoma-extra large, BUN – blood urea nitrogen, CAA – chloroacetaldehyde, Cisplatin – cis-diaminedichloroplatinum(II), CLP – cecal ligation and puncture, CM and/or CT – contrast media, CYP – cytochrome-P, DCVC – S-1,2-dichlorovinyl-L-cysteine, DNA – deoxyribonucleic acids, *E. coli* – *Escherichia coli*, FA – folic acid, Fe-NTA – ferric-nitilotriacetate, GFR – glomerular filtration rate, GSH – reduced glutathione, HgCl₂ – mercuric chloride, *im* – intramuscular, *ip* – intraperitoneal, *iv* – intravenous, I/R – ischemia and reperfusion, IFO – ifosfamide, LPS – lipopolysaccharide, MPTP – mitochondrial permeability transition pore, NaCl – sodium chloride, NADPH oxidase – nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate-oxidase, NSAIDs – non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, NTA – nitilotriacetic acid, *po* – per oral, ROS – reactive oxygen species, *sc* – subcutaneous, SHR – spontaneous hypertensive rats, TCE – trichloroethylene, TNF- α – tumor necrosis factor- α , UN – uranyl nitrate

Introduction

Acute renal failure (ARF) is characterized by a rapid, potentially reversible, decline in renal function including rapid fall in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) and retention of nitrogenous waste products over a period of hours or days. The mortality rate of patients with ARF has remained 25–70% despite the use of various pharmacologic agents. Therefore, it continues to be a frequent threatening complication following trauma, complex surgical procedures, and in patients hospitalized in intensive care units [73]. ARF increases the risk of death in patients after thoracoabdominal aortic surgery, bone marrow transplantation, amphotericin B therapy, in patients with liver cirrhosis and in cardiac surgery [30]. The various factors

Tab. 1. List of animal models for ARF in an experimental laboratory

S.No.	Animal models	Dose, route and duration	References
1	Glycerol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose 8–10 ml/kg, <i>im</i> is used for induction of ARF • Single dose 8 mg/kg, <i>im</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[61, 107, 127] [107]
2	Ischemia-reperfusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clamping of both renal artery for 60 min (l) and 24 h (R). • Left renal artery clamping for 45 min (l) and 24 h (R) • Right renal artery and vein for 60 min (l) and 60 min (R) • Left renal artery and vein for 45 min (l) and 2 week (R) • Infra-renal aortic 150 min (l) and 180 min (R) • Left renal pedicle for 40 min (l) and 24 h (R) • 45 min ischemia followed by 24 h reperfusion is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[15, 19, 36, 49,80, 87, 93, 140] [36, 80]
3	Gentamicin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 40–200 mg/kg for 4–10 days • Dose 100 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> for 5 days is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[21, 44, 99, 128, 137] [44]
4	Cisplatin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 5–40 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> single dose • Dose 100 mg/kg is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[6, 7, 61, 74, 76, 79, 81, 83, 89, 104] [89]
5	Radiocontrast media	Diatrizoate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose range 2–10 ml/kg, <i>iv</i> • Dose 7 and 10 ml/kg, <i>iv</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[33, 45, 50, 141, 144] [33, 141]
		Ioxaglate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose 1 ml/min, intra aortic injection for 3 min is used for the induction of ARF 	[122]
		Iohexol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 1.5–3 g of iodine/kg, <i>ip</i> injection is used for the induction of ARF 	[75]
		Sodium iothalamate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose 6 ml/kg intra aortic administration for 2–3 min is used for the induction of ARF 	[3]
6	NSAIDs	Acetaminophen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 375–3000 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> single dose. • Dose 750 mg/kg, <i>po</i> and 600 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> single dose is more commonly used for the induction of ARF. 	[2, 27, 29, 69, 78, 100] [78, 100]
		Diclofenac sodium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose 15 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> injection for 3 day is used for the induction of ARF 	[42]
7	Osmotic nephrosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose 4–27% w/v sucrose, <i>ip</i> is used for the induction of ARF 	[55, 144]
8	Ifosfamide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 50–1100 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> 1–5 days • Dose 550 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> single dose is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[14, 145] [145]
9	Uranium	Uranyl nitrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 0.5–20 mg/kg is used for the induction of ARF • Single dose 15 and 25 mg/kg, <i>iv</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[13, 32, 39, 40, 48, 77, 101, 121] [13]
		Uranyl acetate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose 5 mg/kg, <i>sc</i> is used for the induction of ARF 	[39, 40]
10	Mercuric chloride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 1–10 mg/kg, is used for the induction of ARF • Single dose 6 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> and 10 mg/kg, <i>sc</i> are more commonly used model for the induction of ARF 	[4, 12, 46, 106, 143, 147] [4, 46]
11	Potassium dichromate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose 15 mg/kg, <i>sc</i> is used for the induction of ARF 	[9, 68]
12	Folic acid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose 250 mg/kg, <i>iv</i> is used for the induction of ARF 	[129]
13	Ferric-nitriilotriacetate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 1–15 mg of iron/kg, <i>ip</i> is used for the induction of ARF • Dose 12 mg/kg, <i>po</i> and 15 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[54, 58, 97, 125] [125]
14	S-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine (DCVC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 5–30 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> is used for the induction of ARF • Single dose 25 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[37, 102, 136] [37]
15	Sepsis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ligation of cecum and and punctured three times for the induction of ARF • Administration of LPS 2.5–15 mg/kg is used for the induction of ARF • Single dose 15 mg/kg, <i>ip</i> is more commonly used for the induction of ARF 	[139] [63, 64, 96, 105] [63]
16	Bipyridyls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 108–680 mg/kg of paraquat is used for the induction of ARF 	[82]
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose range 7.5–680 μmol/kg of diquat is used for the induction of ARF 	[82, 103]

that predispose to ARF are hemodynamic instability, major vascular surgery, hypovolemia, atherosclerosis, diuretic therapy, preoperative starvation, congestive cardiac failure, peritonitis, ileus obstruction, biliary surgery, jaundice, diabetes mellitus, hypoxia, ischemia and reperfusion (I/R), pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, sepsis, major burns and pancreatitis [62].

ARF is classically divided into pre-renal, renal (intrinsic) and post-renal failure. Pre-renal ARF is a consequence of decreased renal perfusion (due to hypovolemia/shock or ischemia), which leads to a reduction in GFR. Intrinsic renal failure occurs when there is a damage to the structures of the nephron such as the glomeruli, tubules, vessels, or interstitium. The major cause of intrinsic ARF is acute tubular necrosis (ATN) that results from ischemic or nephrotoxic injury. Pre-renal ARF and ischemic ATN may occur as a continuum of the same pathophysiological process, and together account for 75% of the causes of ARF [73]. Post-renal ARF follows obstruction of the urinary collection system with an increase in pressure within the renal collecting systems resulting in reduced GFR and renal failure.

In clinical setup, the etiology of ARF is multifold and complex. Rhabdomyolysis is the syndrome characterized by breakdown of striated muscle with massive release of myoglobin into the extracellular fluid and circulation leading to filtration of myoglobin to renal tubules [126]. Rhabdomyolysis provokes ATN because myoglobin forms obstructing tubular casts and myoglobin also leads to intra-renal vasoconstriction due to nitric oxide scavenging and through hypovolemia. I/R-induced renal injury is also very important cause of ARF in clinical setup. Antibiotics such as gentamicin [92], anticancer agents such as cisplatin [61, 89, 94] and ifosfamide [145], radio contrast media, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), osmotic changes, dietary or endogenous agents such as folic acid are the important causes of ARF [42, 51, 75, 129]. In order to understand the pathophysiology of onset of ARF in these different conditions and to explore the drug therapeutics, researchers have developed different animal models of ARF (Tab. 1). The present review discusses these different animal models of acute renal failure.

Animal models of ARF

Glycerol-induced ARF

Glycerol-induced ARF is characterized by myoglobinuria, tubular necrosis [66] and enhanced renal

vasoconstriction. The pathogenic mechanisms involved in glycerol-induced renal failure include ischemic injury, tubular nephrotoxicity caused by myoglobin, and the renal actions of cytokines released after rhabdomyolysis [34, 135]. The large numbers of disorders known to cause rhabdomyolysis include intrinsic muscle dysfunction (including trauma, burns, intrinsic muscle disease, and excessive physical exertion), metabolic disorders, hypoxia, drugs, toxins, infections, temperature extremes and idiopathic disorders [126]. Complications associated with rhabdomyolysis include disseminated intravascular coagulation, hyperkalemia and other metabolic imbalances, ARF and acute cardiomyopathy. In general, about 10–40% of cases with rhabdomyolysis develop ARF and it accounts for 2–15% of all cases of ARF. The model for studying this form of ARF is obtained in the rat by intramuscular injection of glycerol [119]. There is enhanced generation of hydrogen peroxide in renal cortex in rats with glycerol-induced acute renal failure.

A standard method of inducing renal failure is by intramuscular administration of 50% glycerol, v/v (8 ml/kg, *im*) [108]. The required amount of glycerol is administered as a deep *im* injection equally distributed to both hind legs. Rats are deprived of food and water for 24 h before glycerol administration after which they were sacrificed for kidney function evaluation [107]. Also, Vlahovic et al. [127] induced ARF by administration of glycerol (50% v/v in saline) *im* at a dose of 10 ml/kg. Injection volumes were divided equally between two hind limbs. The rats were dehydrated 18 h prior induction of myoglobinuric renal injury and sacrificed 48 h after injection of hypertonic glycerol without any restriction of diet or water [127]. Intramuscular injection of glycerol in the rabbit induces a model of ARF at a dose of 10 mg/kg that resembles the ARF caused by massive release of myoglobin in crush syndrome in humans [112, 123]. An intramuscular administration of single dose of 8 ml/kg of glycerol is the most appropriate animal model that clinically mimics the rhabdomyolysis-induced renal failure in humans.

Ischemia-reperfusion-induced ARF

Under the circumstances such as ischemia and nephrotoxins, ARF is characterized by “acute tubular necrosis” with flattened epithelia and tubular dilation and cast formation. In these conditions, the tubular damage and altered glomerular hemodynamics may

coexist or even lead to each other [57]. Although the detailed cellular and molecular mechanisms of cell injury and the subsequent recovery are not entirely known, yet, data from the previous studies have indicated that ARF may result from the necrosis and apoptosis of renal epithelial cells [35, 117, 131]. In the kidney, ischemia reperfusion injury is associated with cell death of tubular epithelial cells, localized in the stripe between the cortex and medulla; *via* necrosis or apoptosis that in-turn depends on the severity of the ischemic insult.

Experimentally, ARF is induced by clamping the left renal artery for 1 h followed by reperfusion in anesthetized uninephrectomized dogs and renal failure is noted to develop within 3 h [140]. Bhalodia et al. have reported the development of renal failure in rats within 24 h by clamping of both the kidneys for 60 min followed by 24 h of reperfusion [19, 93]. The development of I/S-induced ARF in rats has also been demonstrated by unilateral left renal artery clamping using a small non traumatic vascular clamp for 45 min followed by reperfusion for 24 h [36, 80]. Foglieni et al. have reported the development of renal failure in rats by clamping both right renal artery and vein for 60 min with a microsurgical clamp followed by reperfusion for 60 min [49]. Baker et al. have reported the development of renal failure in pigs by occluding infra-renal aorta with a standard angled arterial cross-clamp (palpation of distal aorta to confirm total aortic occlusion) for 150 min followed by reperfusion for 180 min [15]. Matthijsen et al. have reported the development of I/R-induced renal failure in mice by applying a non traumatic vascular clamp to the left renal pedicle for 40 min after 1.0 cm long midline abdominal incision to induce ischemia followed by reperfusion for 24 h [87]. Similarly, Susa et al. have reported the development of renal failure in mice by occluding left renal artery by an atraumatic microvascular clamp to induce ischemia lasting for 25–37 min with reperfusion of 24 h [115]. The ischemia of 45 min followed by 24 h reperfusion is more suitable and commonly used animal model to simulate the hemodynamic changes-induced alteration in renal function in humans.

Gentamicin-induced ARF

In humans, gentamicin has been used for the treatment of life threatening Gram negative infections. Clinically, the high dose of gentamicin (2.5 mg/kg, *im*

every 12 h for 7 days) has been shown to produce nephrotoxicity [95]. It has been reported that 30% of patients treated with gentamicin for more than 7 days show signs of nephrotoxicity [85]. Gentamicin nephrotoxicity is one of the most common causes of ARF and promotes both increased morbidity and greater health care costs. The clinical trial reports of elder patients have documented that aminoglycosides levels above 2.5 µg/ml possess the major risk factors for aminoglycoside-associated nephrotoxicity [110, 116].

The mechanism of renal failure is that the polycationic aminoglycoside gentamicin is preferentially uptaken by proximal tubular cells of the nephron by binding to negatively charged phospholipids on the brush border and is then quickly transferred to the transmembrane protein – megalin [88]. After internalization *via* endocytosis, the aminoglycoside is transported to the lysosome and tightly binds to acidic phospholipids in the lipid bilayer, causing reduced phospholipase activity and production of phospholipid metabolites. The ability of gentamicin to alter mitochondrial respiration has been well documented in reports of both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies [59]. Other factors that contribute to the pathogenesis of gentamicin nephrotoxicity include generation of superoxide anion and hydroxyl radicals, alteration of anti-oxidant defense systems, depletion of reduced glutathione, Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase inhibition, opening of mitochondrial permeability transition pore and activation of renin-angiotensin system [8, 90, 92, 138].

Different methods have been employed to induce renal failure in rats that include *ip* administration of gentamicin sulfate at a dose of 100 mg/kg/day (in 0.9% NaCl) for 5–8 days and assessment of renal failure assessed 24 h after the last gentamicin injection [44]. Xie et al. reported the development of ARF in rats by administration of relatively higher dose of gentamicin sulfate at the dose of 150 mg/kg, *sc* route for five days [137]. On the other hand, in another variation, the development of ARF in rats has been shown by administering gentamicin at a dose of 200 mg/kg twice daily for four consecutive days [99]. Volpini et al. have reported the development of ARF in rats by administration of gentamicin at a dose of 40 mg/kg, *im*, twice a day for nine days [128], while Bledsoe et al. reported the development of ARF in rats by administration of gentamicin at a dose of 80 mg/kg, *sc* for ten days with the assessment of renal failure on the eleventh day [21]. The administration of gentamicin 100 mg/kg, *ip*, for 5 consecutive days inducing renal

dysfunction is more commonly used model and closely mimics the antibiotic-induced changes in renal function in clinical setup.

Cisplatin-induced ARF

Cisplatin [cis-diaminedichloroplatinum(II)], an anti-cancer drug, is broadly used for the therapy of cancers such as ovarian, head and neck carcinomas, and germ cell tumors. Nephrotoxicity is frequent and is the major limitation in cisplatin-based chemotherapy. In humans, high dose of cisplatin (75 mg/m²) has been used as baseline chemotherapeutic agent for the management of lung cancer. However, at this dose significant kidney damage has been seen in patients. The patients are administered saline infusion prior to and following cisplatin (total of 3.5–4.0 liters during 3–4 h) to prevent nephrotoxicity. The previous clinical studies had also reported that cisplatin in a dosage of 20 mg/m²/day for 5 days causes significant changes in serum creatinine, creatinine clearance and 2.4 fold higher concentration of urine N-acetyl-β-D-glucosaminidase (an indicator of tubular damage) levels [134]. There are several mechanisms that contribute to renal dysfunction following exposure to cisplatin that include direct tubular toxicity in the form of apoptosis and necrosis that is mediated through inflammation, reactive oxygen species (ROS), calcium overload, phospholipase activation, depletion of reduced glutathione, inhibition of mitochondrial respiratory chain function, induction of apoptosis, opening of mitochondrial permeability transition pore (MPTP) and ATP depletion [10, 26, 67, 94].

Izuwa et al. have reported that administration of 5 ml/kg cisplatin (0.1% of saline solution) in the abdominal cavity is associated with development of ARF in rats within 72 h of administration [61], while Roncal et al. reported the development of renal failure with the same dose of cisplatin after five days of drug injection [104]. Other reports have documented the development of renal failure with a single *ip* dose of 6 mg/kg [74], 20 mg/kg and 30 mg/kg cisplatin in rats within 72 h [79, 89]. The ARF model has also been developed in mice by injecting a single dose of cisplatin 16 mg/kg, *ip* and renal dysfunctioning has been observed after 72 h of injection [76]. On the other hand, Lu et al. have reported the induction of ARF in mice by injecting cisplatin at a dose of 30 mg/kg, *ip* [83]. Other research groups have also developed cisplatin-induced renal failure model in mice by vary-

ing the dose of cisplatin that include 12 mg/kg, *ip* [6]; 18 mg/kg, *ip* [7]; 40 mg/kg, *ip* [81].

Radiopaque media-induced ARF

Clinically, radiocontrast media are very commonly used in radiology particularly for cardiac catheterization. Radiocontrast-induced nephropathy is a frequent clinical problem and is a major cause of acute renal failure [24]. Patients administered with radiocontrast media have been reported to exhibit an increased frequency of clinical adverse events including permanent impairment of renal function, longer hospital stay and increased mortality rate. The incidence of radiocontrast nephropathy approaches 30–50% in patients with volume depletion, congestive heart failure, preexisting renal failure, or diabetes mellitus [11]. In patients, isoosmolar radiocontrast (86% of iodixanol) and low-osmolar radiocontrast agent (14% of iohexol) induce acute renal failure [24, 132]. The pathogenesis of radiocontrast nephropathy appears to be multifactorial and includes a deleterious reduction of renal arteriolar blood flow and glomerular filtration rate as well as the direct renal tubular toxicity caused by the radiocontrast agents [43]. The pathophysiology of toxic renal injury caused by radiocontrast media involves changes in generation of free radicals, inflammatory mediators, alteration of anti-oxidant defense systems and development of apoptosis [142].

Different research groups have employed different contrast media to develop renal failure models in animals. Diatrizoate is a water-soluble organic iodide contrast medium (1-deoxy-1-(methylamino)-D-glucitol 3,5-diacetamido-2,4,6-triiodobenzoate) [50]. In the pure form, it contains 59.87% of organically bound iodine and 50% (w/v) solution contains 300 mg I/ml. It has an osmolality of 1550 mosm/kg, and is hypertonic to blood. Erley et al. [45] have reported the development of ARF in rats by administration of sodium diatrizoate at a dose of 2 ml/kg into the jugular vein over a period of 2 min. After the injection, three clearance periods are performed each lasting 30 min, in which urine and blood sampling is done to assess the renal failure [45]. Yen et al. have reported the development of ARF in rats within 1 h by administration of 10 ml/kg of diatrizoate with an iodine load of 3700 mg/kg *via* the tail vein [141], while Colbay et al. reported the development of ARF in rats within 24 h by *iv* injection of diatrizoate (7 ml/kg) over a period of 5 min [33].

Iohexol is commonly used as a non-ionic X-ray contrast media agent [98] and for the measurement of GFR. Iohexol does not bind to serum proteins and is 100% filtered through glomerulus, with no indications of tubular secretion or reabsorption. Touati et al. have reported the development of renal failure in rats, in which rats were uninephrectomized and six days later, the aorta was clamped above the renal artery and a low-osmolar contrast media (CM), ioxaglate, was injected (1 ml/min; 3 min) *via* an aortic puncture in the single remaining kidney. The parameters to assess the renal failure were determined 24 and 48 h after CM administration [122]. Lee et al. have reported the development of renal failure in mice within 24 h by *ip* administration of iohexol (350 mg iodine/ml, 1.5–3 g iodine/kg) [75].

Kwak et al. [72] have reported the development of renal failure in rats by administering three doses of the contrast medium named Ultravist *via iv* route: low dose (CT: 0.5 ml/kg = 0.15 g iodine/kg), standard (CT: 2 ml/kg = 0.6 g iodine/kg), and high-dose (CT: 8 ml/kg = 2.4 g iodine/kg). The blood sampling was done 48 h after the contrast injection to assess the renal failure [72]. Agmon et al. have reported the development of renal failure in rats by injecting sodium iothalamate (80%) through the arterial cannula over 2–3 min, at the dosage of 6 ml/kg. The blood samples were withdrawn 24 h after the contrast medium injection to assess the renal impairment [3]. Single dose administration of diatrizoate 7–10 ml/kg induced renal failure is more commonly used animal model to clinically simulate radiocontrast media-induced renal failure at the time of cardiac catheterization in patients.

NSAID-induced ARF

Acetaminophen-induced ARF

Acetaminophen is most widely used in the world as an analgesic and antipyretic drug that is safe at therapeutic dosages. However, it is also known to cause hepatic necrosis and renal failure in humans [56] and animals [52] in overdoses. In human, acetaminophen represents a growing cause of renal failure in current medical practice. Acetaminophen-induced renal insufficiency is consistent with acute tubular necrosis, an increase in the plasma creatinine level and a decrease in the GFR. The cumulative doses of acetaminophen and aspirin have been documented to induce the renal failure at the dose of 100–499 g and

500–2,999 g or $\geq 3,000$ g, respectively, in patients [130]. Oxidative stress is reported to play a role in the pathogenesis of acetaminophen-induced renal damage whose metabolism occurs *via* cytochrome-P (CYP) 450 enzymes in both the liver and the kidneys. In renal tissues, prostaglandin synthetase and N-deacetylase enzymes play a key role in the formation of free radicals and their metabolites. At higher doses, acetaminophen is shunted through these pathways leading to the increased production of reactive oxygen/nitrogen metabolites, gradual GSH depletion, formation of lipid peroxidative products leading to cell death and renal failure [1, 17, 51, 52].

Palani et al. reported the development of ARF in rats within 24 h by administering a single dose of acetaminophen (750 mg/kg, *po*) [100]. Adeneye et al. and Cekmen et al. have reported the development of ARF within 24 h in rats by administration of a single dose of acetaminophen 800 mg/kg, *ip*, which was dissolved in normal saline [2, 27]. Recently, Kheradpezhohu et al. have reported that ARF may be induced in rats within 18–24 h by *ip* administration of a single dose of acetaminophen (700 mg/kg), dissolved in propylene glycol and distilled water (50:50) [69]. Acetaminophen is also used to induce ARF in mice, as Li et al. have reported the development of ARF within 16 h in mice by administration of a single nephrotoxic dose of acetaminophen (600 mg/kg, dissolved in saline, 25 ml/kg, *ip*) [78]. In another study, Chen et al. have reported the development of ARF within 4 h in mice with different age groups, i.e., young ones with age of 3–31 month and old ones with age of 30–31 months, by administration of the same dose of acetaminophen (375 mg/kg, *ip*) dissolved in ethanol:propylene glycol (1:4) [29]. Single dose administration of acetaminophen (600–750 mg/kg) induced renal failure in rodents closely related to renal dysfunction due to overdose of acetaminophen in humans.

Diclofenac sodium-induced ARF

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are the most common prescription medicines and diclofenac is widely used NSAID for the management of pain and inflammation associated with arthritis. Unfortunately, one of the main side effects of NSAIDs administration is renal function damage [42]. Therefore, the research has been directed for exploring non-steroidal analgesics that do not exhibit the typical side effects associated with NSAIDs including renal

failure [30]. In human, diclofenac has been widely used NSAID for the management of pain and inflammation associated with arthritis [133]. A clinical trial report has documented that diclofenac (75 mg/day for six months) induces severe renal injury [60]. NSAIDs mediated abrogation of prostaglandin synthesis and resultant renal ischemia is the major mechanism and intra-renal ROS generation is also potential mechanism contributing to development of acute interstitial nephritis [42]. Experimentally, *ip* administration of diclofenac (15 mg/kg) injection for 3 day has been reported to induce renal failure in rats [42].

Osmosis-induced ARF

Osmotic nephrosis is described on the morphological basis and is characterized by vacuolization and swelling of the renal proximal tubular cells. Clinically, osmotic nephrosis is due to intravenous infusion of hypertonic sucrose, hydroxyethyl starch, dextrans, and contrast media to reduce intra-cranial pressure [84]. In preclinical studies, osmotic diuresis is produced by administering 20% sucrose solution in rabbits that produces renal failure within the hour, and is characterized by vacuolar degeneration and nuclear shrinkage of tubular cells [55]. Zhang et al. have reported that single dose administration of mannitol (4%, 9%, 19% and 27%) with dose of 5 ml/kg leads to induction of renal apoptosis and acute renal damage in spontaneous hypertensive rats [144].

Ifosfamide-induced ARF

Ifosfamide (IFO), a synthetic analog of cyclophosphamide, is an alkylating oxazaphosphorine and is widely used as first-line combination therapy for a variety of malignancies including metastatic germ-cell testicular cancer and some sarcomas [28]. High-dose chemotherapy using IFO leads to hemorrhagic cystitis, Fanconi syndrome and ARF [28]. Ifosfamide has been documented to induce the renal failure in patients at higher cumulative doses of 73.5 g/m² [47]. The other clinical trial report has documented that cumulative ifosfamide dose of 9–128 g/m²/course induces severe renal failure in pediatric osteosarcoma patients [16]. In another study, ifosfamide dose of 12 g/m² for 6 consecutive days has been shown to develop nephrotoxicity in 45.46% of patients that required hemodialysis and subsequently 36.36% of patients were reported to die [18]. IFO mustard reacts with deoxyri-

bonucleic acids (DNA) molecules to form intra- and inter-strand cross-links, causing the DNA strand to break and ultimately cell apoptosis and/or necrosis [145, 146]. Ifosfamide has also been shown to inhibit glutathione synthesis, generate reactive oxygen species, mitochondrial damage and apoptosis leading renal failure [28, 109, 145]. Chloroacetaldehyde (CAA, a metabolite of ifosfamide) causes depletion of protein thiol and mitochondrial ATP, DNA cross-links and inhibition of DNA synthesis [65, 113]. Badary has demonstrated that *ip* administration of ifosfamide at a dose of 50 mg/kg for 5 consecutive days induces the renal damage in rat [14]. ARF has been shown to develop in mice by *ip* injection with different range of doses such as 350, 550, 800 or 1100 mg/kg of ifosfamide. However, the dose of 550 mg/kg of ifosfamide was reported to produce reproducible ARF within 72 h [145]. Single dose administration of ifosfamide, 550 mg/kg, *ip*, induced renal failure in more commonly employed animal model to study various aspects of renal dysfunction due to anticancer agents-induced renal failure in cancer patients.

Uranium-induced ARF

The kidney is being particularly sensitive to uranium. In chronically exposed uranium workers, the reduction in renal proximal tubular reabsorption of amino acids and low molecular weight proteins consistent with uranium nephrotoxics has been reported [120]. Uranium nephrotoxicity has been extensively studied in experimental animals using uranyl nitrate (UN) and uranyl acetate, and is characterized by an increased serum creatinine and blood urea nitrogen (BUN) accompanied by abnormal electrolyte excretion, proteinuria, glucosuria and tubular necrosis [20]. As with many nephrotoxins, uranyl-mediated pathologic damage is most evident in the straight position of the proximal tubule [25].

Avasthi et al. reported the development of renal failure in rats by *iv* administration of two doses of uranyl nitrate 15 mg/kg and 25 mg/kg [13]. Later, researchers have reported the development of renal failure in rats within 5 days by *ip* administration of single dose of uranyl nitrate (0.5 and 10 mg/kg) dissolved in 0.9% of saline [101, 121]. Fleck et al. reported the development of renal failure in rats by administration of single dose of uranyl nitrate (5 mg/kg, *ip*) which was dissolved in 0.9% NaCl [48]. It has been reported that single injection of 1 ml/kg (5 mg/kg) into the tail vein

of rat induces renal failure [70, 71]. The plasma levels of urea nitrogen and creatinine increase significantly from third day to fifth day after intravenous administration of uranyl nitrate [71, 77]. Choi et al. have reported the development of renal failure in rats within 5 days by *iv* administration of uranyl nitrate at a dose of 5 mg/kg [32]. Subcutaneous injection of uranyl acetate dihydrate (5 mg/kg) has also been reported to generate ARF within 72 h [39, 40].

Mercuric chloride-induced ARF

Mercuric chloride (HgCl_2) is a well-known renal toxicant that causes ARF. A single injection of HgCl_2 into rats results in necrosis of the tubular epithelial cells of the kidney [124]. Early tubular epithelial injury induced by mercuric chloride consists of fragmentation of the plasma membrane, swelling of the mitochondria and disruption of the nucleus and cytoplasmic organelles. Oxidative stress, which occurs after the metabolic generation of ROS, seems to play an important role in the pathogenesis of HgCl_2 -induced ARF [22]. Zimmermann et al. have reported the development of ARF in rat within 24 h by administration of a single *sc* injection of HgCl_2 at a dose of 2.5 and 4.7 mg/kg [147]. Yoneya et al. have reported the development of ARF in rats within 24 h by *ip* administration of HgCl_2 (1 mg/kg) dissolved in saline (1 mg/ml) [143]. Ewald et al. have also been reporting the development of ARF in mice within 24 h by administration of a single *ip* injection of HgCl_2 at a dose of 6 mg/kg [46]. Ahn et al. has developed renal failure in rabbits within 24 h by administration of a single *sc* dose of HgCl_2 at 10 mg/kg [4]. The development of ARF in rats within 24 h by administration of a single *sc* dose of HgCl_2 at 4.0 mg/kg and 5.0 mg/kg has also been described [12, 106]. The administration of mercuric chloride 6 mg/kg, *ip* (single dose) in rabbit and 10 mg/kg, *sc* in mice (single dose) induced renal failure models more commonly used to clinically mimic the chemical industrial hazard associated with ARF in human.

Potassium dichromate-induced ARF

Chromium is a naturally occurring element found in volcanic dust, rocks, soil, plants and animals. The most common forms of chromium in the environment are hexavalent (Cr^{6+}) and trivalent (Cr^{3+}). Cr^{6+} and Cr^{3+} are widely used in industrial and chemical pro-

cesses such as leather tanning, printing, in hair dyes, steel manufacturing and wood preservative production. In some regions, waste disposal of chromium compounds to the environment contributes to increase its presence and potential toxicity [111]. In biological systems, the soluble forms of Cr^{6+} are absorbed more easily than Cr^{3+} and are reduced to Cr^{3+} via Cr^{5+} by glutathione, ascorbate and hydrogen peroxide [5]. Once chromium is absorbed, it is distributed in the liver, lung, spleen, kidney and heart. Appel et al. have reported the development of non-oliguric pattern of ARF in rat within 24 h by administration of a single *sc* injection of potassium dichromate ($\text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$) 15 mg/kg [9]. Recently, Khan et al. have demonstrated that a single injection of potassium dichromate (15 mg/kg, *sc*) causes development of ARF within 48 h [68].

Folic acid-induced ARF

Folic acid (FA) induced ARF is a conventional animal model of human ARF [118]. FA-induced renal injury is associated with the rapid appearance of FA crystals within renal tubules and subsequent acute tubular necrosis, followed by epithelial regeneration and renal cortical scarring [23, 91]. The molecular mechanisms by which FA induces ARF remain poorly understood. FA-induced renal failure is characterized by necrosis and apoptosis of tubular epithelial cells. In FA treated animals there is marked reduction in the expression of anti-apoptotic protein B-cell lymphoma-extra large (Bcl-xL) in kidneys along with marked elevation of tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) in blood and kidneys [129]. An *iv* injection of folic acid (250 mg/kg) is reported to induce ARF after 48 h in mice [129].

Ferric-nitriilotriacetate-induced ARF

Nitriilotriacetic acid (NTA), a synthetic chelating agent, is used as a household and hospital detergent in various countries. NTA is a low-toxic agent [54, 97]; however, the ferric-nitriilotriacetate (Fe-NTA) complex causes acute nephrotoxicity in animals as well as in humans [54, 86]. Fe-NTA-induced generation of free radicals, including superoxide anions and hydroxyl radicals, is a major mechanism of renal toxicity [125]. Hamazaki et al. have reported that the administration of single dose of Fe-NTA (15 mg iron/kg) induces the acute tubular necrosis and renal failure in rats [54], while Umemura et al. reported that oral administration of Fe-NTA (12 mg Fe/kg) in rats causes

ARF [125]. Furthermore, administration of the single dose of Fe-NTA (8 mg iron/kg, *ip*) has also been reported to induce renal failure in rats [53]. ARF is induced within 24 h in mice by *ip* injection of Fe-NTA with different doses such as 1, 2, and 4 mg/kg [58].

S-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine-induced ARF

S-(1,2-Dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine (DCVC) is a potent nephrotoxicant and is a metabolite of trichloroethylene (TCE), a ground water contaminant listed as one of the most hazardous chemicals by Agency of Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) [38]. DCVC selectively damages the proximal tubules of the kidneys and causes mortality by ARF [37, 136]. Administration of DCVC (30 mg/kg, *ip*) in mice is reported to cause loss of renal architecture within 24 h [102]. Darnerud et al. have reported that administration of single dose of DCVC at the lower dose of 5 mg/kg and higher dose of 25 mg/kg produces ARF in mice in a dose dependent manner. Administration of DCVC 5 mg/kg is reported to induce moderate lesions in the straight proximal tubules within 24 h. Furthermore, administration of 25 mg/kg of DCVC is documented to produce more pronounced lesions in the tubular segment that extend to other segments such as sub-capsular region [37]. Wolfgang et al. [136] have reported that two stereoisomers L-DCVC (at 10^{-5} M) and D-DCVC (at 10^{-5} M) produce renal injury *in vitro* system using rabbit renal cortical slices. Furthermore, administration of 25 mg/kg was also reported to produce ARF within 24 and 48 h in rabbits [102, 136].

Sepsis-induced ARF

Cecal ligation and puncture (CLP) induced polymicrobial sepsis is also employed to induce ARF in rats. The rats are anesthetized and a 2 cm ventral midline incision is made to expose and ligate the cecum with a 4.0 silk just distal to the ileocecal valve to avoid intestinal obstruction. Thereafter, ligated cecum is punctured three times with a 16 gauge needle followed by drainage with 3 mm wide latex slice twice and 5 mm width latex slice once. After this procedure, animals are fluid resuscitated with sterile saline (40 ml/kg) and within 24 h the animals develop renal failure as detected by an increase in creatinine levels along with extreme lethargy, diarrhea, piloerection and tachypnea [139]. Ruetten et al. have demonstrated

that intravenous infusion of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (10 mg/kg) for 30 min in the the left femoral vein induces ARF in rat [105]. Johannes et al. have reported that 30 min infusion of LPS (2.5 mg/kg) induces endotoxemia associated renal failure in rat [64]. Jesmin et al. have demonstrated that single *ip* injection of LPS derived from *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli* 055:B5) (15 mg/kg) induces the potential ARF in rats [63]. Recently, the renal artery occlusion along with *sc* injections of *Escherichia coli* in 4 week old rats is reported to cause renal failure [96]. An *ip* administration of bacterial toxic protein, i.e., LPS 15 mg/kg (single dose) induced renal failure in rats is more commonly employed animal model that mimics the infection-induced renal failure in humans.

Bipyridyls-induced ARF

Paraquat and diquat dibromide are commercially available herbicides and are extensively used worldwide. Diquat is useful for studying the effects of ROS *in vivo* particularly in renal system [114]. It stimulates cellular production of ROS by undergoing cyclic reduction-oxidation processes, in which the diquat dication is reduced to the monocation radical, which in turn reduces molecular oxygen to superoxide. Lock and Ishmael has demonstrated that administration of paraquat (680 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$, *po*, and 108 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$, *sc*) cause the renal tubular damage after 6 and 24 h, respectively, in rats [82]. Diquat (680 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$, *po*)-induced renal tubular damage is characterized by urinary proteinuria and glucosuria within 6 to 24 h in rats [82]. It has been reported that a single oral dose of diquat (540 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$) induces the renal functional changes and kidney damage in rats [103]. Rogers et al. [103] have demonstrated that cumulative dose 0–50 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ of diquat *ip* during the period of 6 h induces the ARF in glutathione reductase-deficient mice, with the dose of 7.5 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ diquat, renal injury is mainly demonstrated in proximal tubules within 1 h and tubular necrosis is observed within 2 h [103].

Conclusions

The development of different animal models of acute renal failure, especially those closely simulating clinical conditions, has contributed immensely in under-

standing the pathophysiology underlying the onset of renal failure. Since the etiology for induction of renal failure is multifold, therefore, a large number of animal models have been developed to mimic the clinical conditions of renal failure. Glycerol-induced renal failure closely mimics the rhabdomyolysis; ischemia-reperfusion-induced ARF simulate the hemodynamic changes-induced changes in renal functioning; drug-induced such as gentamicin, cisplatin, NSAID, ifosfamide-induced ARF mimics the renal failure due to clinical administration of respective drugs; uranium, potassium dichromate-induced ARF mimics the occupational hazard; S-(1,2-dichlorovinyl)-L-cysteine-induced ARF simulate contaminated water-induced renal dysfunction; sepsis-induced ARF mimics the infection-induced renal failure and radiocontrast-induced ARF mimics renal failure in patients during use of radiocontrast media at the time of cardiac catheterization.

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