

Antioxidant Effect of Ascorbic Acid (Vit.C) in Different Concentration against Harmful Effect of Toxic Heavy Metal (Lead Acetate) in Rats

Lamia M. Hafez and Amal M. Kishk

Regional Center for Food and Feed - Agriculture Research Center- El-Sabhia, Alexandria-Egypt



ABSTRACT

Ascorbic acid (Vit.C) is one of the most potent antioxidants that interacts directly with the oxidizing radicals and protects the cells from reactive oxygen species. There is a need to increase the daily intake of Vit.C. The present study was aimed to evaluate the potential protective effects of different concentration of Vit.C against oxidative stress of lead acetate toxicity (Pb) in rats. Fifty albino male rats with average body weight 180 gm were classified into five equal groups (10 each); control group received tap water only, Pb group received 0.2% lead acetate /kg.b.w and the other three groups received 500, 1000 and 1500 mg Vit. C, along with 0.2%lead acetate /kg.bw, respectively. Doses were orally administered daily for two months.The results showed that Pb affected significantly on the hematological parameters, which decreased red blood cell count (RBC) by 28.9%, hemoglobin(Hb) by 28.2%, hematocrit (Htc) by 26.4%and platelets(Plt) by 25,1% than control group ;while white blood cell count (WBC) increased significantly by 35.9% than control group. But Vit.C enhanced hematological parameters in the present of lead acetate at all concentrations than lead group, and the best effect was found with high concentration (1500mg),where it increased RBC count by 27.5%,Hb by 44.7%,Htc by 30.2%and Plt by 45%,while WBC count was decreased by 29%.Pb caused significant increase in total lipid by 53.7%, triglyceride (TG) by 43.6%, cholesterol (CHO) by 50%, low density lipoprotein (LDL)by 76% and very low density lipoprotein(VLDL) by 43.8% than control group, while Vit.C significantly decrease the total lipid by 26.1%, TG by 20.5%,CHO by 21.3%.LDL by 50%, and VLDL by 2o.5% at high concentration of Vit C(1500mg),it also increased HDL significantly by 57.5% than lead group. Pb administration increased nitric oxide (NO) by 53.9% and thiobarbaturic acid reactive substances(TBARS) by 53.3% in plasma compared to the control group, while it significantly decreased glutathione (GSH) by 50% and total antioxidants capacity (TAC) by 57.9%.Pb also increased NO and TBARS and decreased GSH and TAC in liver, kidneys and brain. Vit.C had benefits effect as antioxidant activity, the best effect noticed in the highest concentration of Vit.C (1500 mg).It caused significant decrease in NO by 23.4% and TBARS by 25.5%.But also caused significant increase in GSH by 60% and TAC by 100% in plasma than lead group. Vit C also decreased NO and TBARS and increased GSH and TAC in organs than lead groupIt can be concluded that Vit.C is capable of alleviating the harmful effects of Pb and highly recommended increasing the daily intake of Vit. C either from food rich in ascorbic acid or from supplementation.

Keywords: Ascorbic acid, Lead, Oxidative stress, Lipid, Antioxidants, rats.

INTRODUCTION

Ascorbic acid (Vit.C) is low molecular mass antioxidant that interact directly with the oxidizing radicals which was widely reported with the capability of protecting cells from oxidative stress (Patra and Swarp 2004) and protect the cells from reactive oxygen species (Rai *et al* 2009).It also has been shown to regenerate other antioxidants within the body, including vitamin E(Jacob and Sotoudeh 2002).

Much of the current focus on Vit.C has been on its role as an antioxidant. Antioxidant nutrients are thought to provide a buffer against cell damage that occurs during routine cell functions. Studies examine the eating habits of large groups of people show that a high intake of Vit.C-rich foods may reduce oxidative stress which conceder a reason for cancers of the mouth, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, lungs, and pancreas. Furthermore, Vit. C is widely reputed to have chemo preventive effects in doses greater than the current RDA of 60 mg/ day. High levels of AA are usually found in diets that contain more servings of fruits and vegetables are richer in other antioxidants. (Levine *et al* 1999)

Based on the observation that free radical was generated during the pathogenesis processes induced by Pb exposure, it was presumed that supplementation of antioxidants could be an alternative method for chelation therapy (Flora *et al* 2003).

Pb is a persistent metal that is still present in the environment (Garaza and Soto 2006). Exposure to Pb mainly occurs through the respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. Absorbed Pb (whether inhaled or ingested) is

stored in soft tissues. Pb is conjugated in the liver and passed to the kidneys, where a small quantity is excreted in urine and the rest accumulates in various body organs, affecting many biological activities which may result in morphological alterations that can remain even after Pb levels have fallen (Sidhu and Nehru 2004,Taib *et al* 2004 and Flora *et al* 2006). Researches in humans and animals have shown that Pb has toxicological effect on the liver, bone, blood, kidneys, lungs, heart, brain and testis, (Diamond 2005,Aziz *et al* 2012,Samia El-Neweshy and Yasmeeen El-sayed 2011,Payal *et al* 2009,Bomfim *et al* 2012,Garu and Sharma 2011and Moussa and Bashandy 2008)

Pb mediated toxicities have been reported to include the induction of oxidative stress in tissues and organs which can lead to oxidative damage in two separate but related pathways. The first pathway is the generation of ROS and the second pathway is the depletion of antioxidants reserve through the generation of reactive oxygen species. Pb is reported to in activate glutathione an antioxidant by binding to its sulfhydryl moiety. (Ercal *et al* 1996 , Sharma and Garu 2011 and Patrick 2006).

The aim of this study was to evaluate the potential antioxidant effect of different concentration of ascorbic acid against oxidative stress resulted from toxic heavy metal such as lead acetate in rats.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental animals:

Male albino rats (*n*: 50) averaging 180 g of b.w were obtained from the animal house of the Medical

Research Institute, Alexandria University, Egypt. The local committee approved the design of the experiments and the protocol follows the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Animals received human care, and had adequate stable diet and water *ad libitum*. Animals were acclimatized to the laboratory conditions for two weeks before being experimented

Experimental design:

After two weeks of acclimation, animals were classified into five equal groups' (ten rats in each). Control group received tap water only, Pb group received 0.2% lead acetate /kg, b.w and the other three groups received 500, 1000 and 1500 mg AA along with 0.2% lead acetate / kg-Bw, respectively. Doses were orally administered every day for two months.

Body weight and organs weight:

Body weight of rats was recorded in the beginning and at the end of the experimental period. Animals were sacrificed by decapitation, then liver, kidneys, and brain immediately removed and weighed. Relative organ weights were calculated as g/100 g BW.

Blood sample:

Collected blood samples from the sacrificed animals in two separate tubes, one of them contained heparin used for estimation of hematological parameters using Celltaccauto analyzer. These parameters included the red blood cell count, platelet, hematocrit and hemoglobin. The other tube contain EDTA was used for other analyses. Plasma samples were obtained by centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 20 min., then samples were stored at -20 °C until using for further analyses.

Biochemical parameters:

Analyzed plasma samples were for CHO and TG according to the methods described by Tietz (1995). HDL was determined according to the methods of Sugiuchi *et al* (1995). LDL was determined by the method of Pisaniet *al.*, (1995). VLDL was calculated automatically by Roche /Hitachi Cobas C systems (TG /5).

Antioxidant enzymes and free radicals

The amount of GSH was determined according to Habig *et al.* (1974). TBARS were measured by Tappel and Zalkin (1959) .TAC and the level of NO were assayed in plasma and organs homogenates according to the manual instruction of Biodiagnostic Kit, Egypt.

Statistical analysis:

Steel and Torrie (1981) data were analyzed. Statistical significance of the difference between values of the control and treated animals was calculated by F test with 5% significance level. Data were statistically analyzed by using Duncan's Multiple Range Test SAS, (1986).

Table (1) showed the body weight gain and relative weight for liver, kidneys and brain for different groups. It was found that there was no significant change in body weight in all groups .Pb caused significant (≤ 0.05) increase in liver and kidneys weight than control group but it didn't effect on brain weight. Presence of Vit.C could enhance relative weight of liver at 500 mg and 1000 mg but the highest concentration (1500mg) didn't have any effect. Relative weight of kidneys increased at 500mg of Vit.C and decreased at 1000mg and 1500mg Vit.C but it still more than lead group ,it was noticed an increase in brain weight at 1000mg Vit.C.

Table 1. Changes in body weight gain (g) and relative weight of organs (g/100 g BW) in different experimental groups.

Parameters	Experimental groups				
	Control group	Lead group 0.2% Pb	0.2% Pb +500mgAA	0.2% Pb +1000mgAA	0.2% Pb +1500mgAA
Initial weight	178.5 ± 5.3 ^a	183.0 ± 6.7 ^a	181.7 ± 5.9 ^a	185.7 ± 7.2 ^a	185.8 ± 9.4 ^a
Final weight	215.5 ± 6.9 ^a	215.4 ± 14.7 ^a	210.0 ± 11.0 ^a	207.1 ± 13.3 ^a	211.7 ± 14.7 ^a
Body weight gain	37.0 ± 6.4 ^a	32.4 ± 6.8 ^a	28.3 ± 7.1 ^a	21.4 ± 10.6 ^a	25.8 ± 10.1 ^a
Liver	2.6 ± 0.05 ^b	3.2 ± 0.1 ^a	3.1 ± 0.04 ^a	3.1 ± 0.06 ^a	3.2 ± 0.1 ^a
Kidneys	0.7 ± 0.01 ^c	0.9 ± 0.03 ^b	1.1 ± 0.05 ^a	1.0 ± 0.02 ^{ab}	1.0 ± 0.06 ^{ab}
Brain	0.7 ± 0.04 ^a	0.7 ± 0.05 ^a	0.7 ± 0.03 ^a	0.8 ± 0.05 ^a	0.6 ± 10.05 ^a

Results are expressed as mean ± SE; Means with different letters in the same row imply significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$.

Pb affected significantly on hematological parameters (table 2), it caused significant decrease in RBC count by 28.9%, Hb by 28.2%, Htc by 26.4% and Plt count by 25.1% than control group, while WBC count increased by 35.6% than control group. Vit C enhanced hematological parameters in the presence of lead acetate at all concentrations than lead group, and the best effect was found with the highest concentration (1500mg), where it increased RBC count by 27.5%, Hb by 44.7%, Htc by 30.2% and Plt count by 45%, while WBC count decreased by 29%, which became near to control group. From the table it was noticed that there is no difference in Plt count in all concentration of Vit C in presence of lead.

Blood lipid was affected by lead acetate, Pb caused significant increase in total lipid by 53.7%, TG by 43.6%, CHO by 50%, LDL 76% and VLDL by 43.8% than control group. Pb also decreased significantly HDL than control nearly by half (36.5 ± 1.9 in Pb group and 65.7 ± 2.1 in control group), while AA significantly decreased total lipid by 26.1%, TG by 20.5%, CHO by 21.3%, LDL by 50%, and VLDL 20.5% at high concentration (1500mg), it also increased HDL significantly by 57.5% in the presence of lead acetate than lead group. There was no different effect between the two concentrations of 500 mg and 1000 mg which caused nearly the same effect on lipids. (table 3).

Antioxidant activity presented in table (4), it was found that Pb increased significantly the level of NO by 53.9% and TBARS by 53.3% in plasma than control group. Pb also caused significant decrease in the level of GSH by 50% and TAC by 57.9% in plasma than control group. Pb also increased NO and TBARS and decreased GSH and TAC in organs than control group, while all concentrations of Vit C had benefits effect on

antioxidant activity, the best effect noticed in the highest concentration of Vit.C (1500 mg).It caused significant decrease in NO by 23.4% and TBARS by 25.5%.It also caused significant increase in GSH by 60% and TAC by 100% in plasma than lead group. Vit.C also decreased NO and TBARS and increased GSH and TAC in organs than lead group.

Table 2. Changes in hematological parameters in different experimental groups.

Parameters	Experimental groups				
	Control group	Lead group 0.2% Pb	0.2% Pb +500mgAA	0.2% Pb +1000mgAA	0.2% Pb +1500mgAA
RBCs count($\times 10^6/L$)	4.7 \pm 0.2 ^a	3.34 \pm 0.2 ^d	4.18 \pm 0.12 ^b	3.84 \pm 0.2 ^c	4.26 \pm 0.2 ^b
WBCs count($\times 10^3/L$)	7860 \pm 716 ^b	10680 \pm 878.3 ^a	8440 \pm 882.9 ^b	8040 \pm 1092.1 ^b	7580 \pm 879.1 ^c
Hb(gm/dl)	13.1 \pm 0.5 ^{ab}	9.4 \pm 0.6 ^d	11.9 \pm 0.4 ^c	12.5 \pm 0.3 ^{bc}	13.6 \pm 0.4 ^a
Htc(%)	43.2 \pm 1.7 ^a	31.8 \pm 2.8 ^b	41.2 \pm 1.3 ^a	41.8 \pm 1.6 ^a	41.4 \pm 1.4 ^a
Plt count($\times 10^9/L$)	241.8 \pm 19.4 ^{ab}	181.2 \pm 16.4 ^c	223.6 \pm 12.5 ^b	234.6 \pm 23.5 ^{ab}	263.2 \pm 18.8 ^a

Results are expressed as mean \pm SE; Means with different letters in the same row imply significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$.

Table 3.Changes in blood lipid fractions in different experimental groups

Parameters	Experimental groups				
	Control group	Lead group 0.2% Pb	0.2% Pb +500mgAA	0.2% Pb +1000mgAA	0.2% Pb +1500mgAA
T. Lipid(mg/dl)	472.8 \pm 20.3 ^d	726.6 \pm 22.5 ^a	604.2 \pm 12.3 ^b	591 \pm 16.7 ^{bc}	536.7 \pm 30.8 ^c
TG(mg/dl)	129.0 \pm 2.5 ^d	185.3 \pm 5.2 ^a	165.2 \pm 3.4 ^b	162.7 \pm 7.8 ^b	147.3 \pm 3.4 ^c
CHO(mg/dl)	116.5 \pm 4.1 ^e	174.8 \pm 6.2 ^a	151.5 \pm 5.4 ^b	148.0 \pm 5.2 ^c	137.5 \pm 4.9 ^d
HDL(mg/dl)	65.7 \pm 2.1 ^a	36.5 \pm 1.9 ^d	48.6 \pm 2.3 ^c	52.1 \pm 1.1 ^c	57.5 \pm 0.95 ^b
LDL(mg/dl)	26.9 \pm 4.7 ^d	101.2 \pm 5.1 ^a	69.8 \pm 5.6 ^b	63.3 \pm 4.7 ^b	50.5 \pm 5.0 ^c
VLDL(mg/dl)	25.8 \pm 0.5 ^d	37.1 \pm 1.0 ^a	33.1 \pm 0.7 ^b	32.5 \pm 1.6 ^b	29.5 \pm 0.7 ^c

Results are expressed as mean \pm SE; Means with different letters in the same row imply significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$.

Table 4. Changes in antioxidant parameters in different experimental groups

Parameters		Experimental groups				
		Control group	Lead group 0.2% Pb	0.2% Pb +500mgAA	0.2% Pb +1000mgAA	0.2% Pb +1500mgAA
plasma	NO $\mu\text{mol/ml}$	51.4 \pm 1.2 ^c	79.1 \pm 1.9 ^a	65.2 \pm 1.6 ^b	64.2 \pm 1.6 ^b	60.6 \pm 1.5 ^c
	TBARS nmol/ml	9.2 \pm 0.5 ^d	14.1 \pm 0.2 ^a	11.9 \pm 0.4 ^b	11.7 \pm 0.3 ^b	10.5 \pm 0.3 ^c
	GSH $\mu\text{mol/ml}$	1.0 \pm 0.03 ^a	0.5 \pm 0.02 ^d	0.7 \pm 0.02 ^c	0.7 \pm 0.02 ^c	0.8 \pm 0.02 ^b
	TAC mmol/ml	1.9 \pm 0.05 ^a	0.8 \pm 0.01 ^d	1.4 \pm 0.02 ^c	1.4 \pm 0.03 ^c	1.6 \pm 0.01 ^b
	NO $\mu\text{mol/g tissue}$	11.7 \pm 0.1 ^e	17.2 \pm 0.2 ^a	15.0 \pm 0.1 ^b	14.5 \pm 0.1 ^c	13.4 \pm 0.1 ^d
liver	TBARS nmol/g tissue	14.5 \pm 0.1 ^d	21.2 \pm 0.2 ^a	18.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	17.8 \pm 0.2 ^b	16.5 \pm 0.1 ^c
	GSH $\mu\text{mol/g}$	5.9 \pm 0.1 ^a	3.3 \pm 0.04 ^d	4.3 \pm 0.1 ^c	4.5 \pm 0.1 ^c	5.1 \pm 0.1 ^b
	TAC mmol/g tissue	1.6 \pm 0.05 ^a	0.8 \pm 0.1 ^c	1.2 \pm 0.1 ^b	1.3 \pm 0.07 ^b	1.4 \pm 0.1 ^b
	NO $\mu\text{mol/g tissue}$	5.2 \pm 0.04 ^d	7.7 \pm 0.1 ^a	6.6 \pm 0.1 ^b	6.4 \pm 0.1 ^b	6.1 \pm 0.1 ^c
	TBARS nmol/g tissue	27.0 \pm 0.7 ^d	41.9 \pm 0.2 ^a	34.3 \pm 0.2 ^b	33.4 \pm 0.8 ^b	30.9 \pm 0.4 ^c
kidney	GSH $\mu\text{mol/g tissue}$	4.6 \pm 0.1 ^a	2.5 \pm 0.04 ^e	3.3 \pm 0.1 ^d	3.5 \pm 0.1 ^c	3.9 \pm 0.1 ^b
	TAC mmol/g tissue	17.4 \pm 0.2 ^a	7.3 \pm 0.5 ^d	12.5 \pm 0.3 ^c	13.1 \pm 0.3 ^c	14.6 \pm 0.3 ^b
	NO $\mu\text{mol/g tissue}$	14.8 \pm 0.4 ^d	22.5 \pm 0.6 ^a	18.9 \pm 0.5 ^b	18.3 \pm 0.5 ^{bc}	17.3 \pm 0.5 ^c
	TBARS nmol/g tissue	31.2 \pm 0.5 ^d	45.3 \pm 0.5 ^a	39.4 \pm 0.6 ^b	38.4 \pm 0.6 ^b	35.6 \pm 0.6 ^c
	GSH $\mu\text{mol/g tissue}$	6.4 \pm 0.1 ^a	3.7 \pm 0.01 ^d	5.0 \pm 0.1 ^c	5.1 \pm 0.1 ^c	5.6 \pm 0.05 ^b
brain	TAC mmol/g tissue	16.8 \pm 0.3 ^a	9.4 \pm 0.1 ^d	12.9 \pm 0.4 ^c	13.4 \pm 0.3 ^{bc}	14.2 \pm 0.4 ^b

Results are expressed as mean \pm SE; Means with different letters in the same row imply significant differences at $p \leq 0.05$

DISCUSSION

Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) was widely reported to have the ability to protect cells from oxidative stress. It is the most important free radical scavenger in extracellular fluids, trapping radicals in the aqueous phase and protecting biomembranes from peroxidative damage (Raia *et al* 2009). Animal studies have suggested an antagonistic effect of Vit C on Pb absorption and toxicity, also Vit C may chelate Pb (Dawson *et al* 1999). In the present study it was found that presence of AA with lead acetate significantly decreased the harmful effect of Pb on hematological parameters with all doses, especially with the highest concentration (1500 mg). Pb ingestion resulted in a significant decrease of Hb in blood (Wang *et al* 2007). In a study of the effects of dietary AA levels on hematological parameters it was found a significantly higher Htc value with 1686mg AA/kg diet compared to 32 and 423mg AA/kg⁻¹ diets, also WBC count with 1686mg AA/kg diet was significantly higher than those fed on 32–423 mg AA/kg diet (Sahkaret *et al* 2015).

In this study it was found that Pb caused increase in CHO, TG, LDL and VLDL and decreased in HDL, while adding Vit C in the presence of Pb caused beneficial effect on lipid profile. In previous study a significant positive correlation was observed between blood lead and total cholesterol and between blood lead and LDL cholesterol. (Ademuyiwa *et al* 2005). Sharma 2012 in a study on battery workers found that, the TG levels were higher in the battery workers than control group, also it was suggested that Pb exposure increases cholesterol synthesis.

Previous study reported that 1 g Vit C inhibited the increase in LDL susceptibility to oxidation after exercise, preventing this acute pro-atherogenic effect. (Sanchez *et al* 1998), McRae (2008) in another study found that at least 500 mg/d of Vit C supplementation, for a minimum of 4 weeks feeding, can result in a significant decrease in serum LDL and TG concentrations. However, there was a non-significant elevation of serum HDL. It was found a significant decrease in TG, LDL was seen in the group supplemented with 1000 mg AA. The dose of 500 mg AA, however, did not produce any significant change in any of the parameters studied. (Afkhami and Ardekani 2007). Using AA supplementation can be considered as a useful harmless, economical and convenient prophylactic agent for Pb-exposed population (Shahrabi *et al* 2006).

TBARS are produced by lipid peroxidation and are considered as indicators of oxidative stress (Karthikeyan *et al* 2007). In present study it was found that lead acetate caused increase in TBARS and NO, and decrease in TAC and glutathione in both plasma and the organs (liver, kidneys and brain). Lead ingestion resulted in a significant decrease of GSH in blood and GSH level in liver cells (Wang *et al* 2007).

Frei *et al.*, (1989) showed that Vit.C appears to be particularly important in limiting oxidative lipid damage in biological systems. Numerous studies have demonstrated that under many different types of oxidizing conditions, amino acid forms the first line of antioxidant defense and effectively protects the lipids in plasma and lipoproteins against detectable peroxidative damage. Upasani *et al.*, (2001) reported that peroxidative damage increased the

level of lipid peroxidation and altered the antioxidant defense system (Adanaylo and Oteiza, 1999). Although high dose amino acid decreased lipid peroxidation more than the low dose but the difference was not significant Shokouhi (2005).

CONCLUSION

From the present study, it was found that; the beneficial role of Vit.C is ameliorating lead-induced oxidative stress in lead exposed rats. Based on the observation that free radical was generated during the pathogenesis processes induced by lead exposure, it was presumed that supplementation with Vit.C was capable to protect cells from oxidative stress and help to improve the antioxidant status parameters by scavenging the generated free radicals, and highly recommended increasing the daily intake of Vit.C either from food rich in Vit C or from supplementation.

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التأثير المضاد للاكسدة للتركيزات المختلفة من حمض الاسكوربيك (فيتامين ج) ضد التأثير الضار للمعادن الثقيلة السامة (خلات الرصاص) في الجرزان لمياء محمد حافظ وأمال محمد كشك المركز الإقليمي للأغذية والأعلاف - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الصبحية، الإسكندرية - مصر

حمض الاسكوربيك (فيتامين ج) هو واحد من أكثر المواد المضادة للاكسدة القوية التي تتفاعل مباشرة مع الشوارد المؤكسدة ويحمي الخلايا من الأنواع المتفاعلة مع الأكسجين. وقد وجد ان هناك حاجة لزيادة المتناول اليومي من فيتامين ج. تهدف الدراسة لتقييم التأثيرات الوقائية المحتملة لتركيزات مختلفة من فيتامين ج ضد الجهد التاكسدي الناتج عن خلوات الرصاص في الجرزان. وقد تم تقسيم خمسين من ذكر جرزان الالبينو بمتوسط وزن للجسم 180 جم إلى خمس مجموعات متساوية (10 لكل مجموعة). المجموعة الضابطة (تلقت ماء الصنبور فقط)؛ الثانية (تلقت 0.2% خلوات الرصاص /كجم من وزن الجسم) والمجموعات الثلاث الأخرى (تلقت 0.0 و 1.0 و 10.0 ملجم حامض اسكوربيك جنباً إلى جنب مع 0.2% خلوات الرصاص /كجم من وزن الجسم)، على التوالي. كانت الجرعات تجرع بالفم كل يوم لمدة شهرين. أظهرت النتائج أن الرصاص يؤثر بشكل معنوي علي خصائص الدم، فقد انخفضت خلايا الدم الحمراء بنسبة 28.9%، الهيموجلوبين بنسبة 28.2%، هيماتوكريت بنسبة 26.4% والصفائح الدموية بنسبة 20.1% مقارنة بالمجموعة الضابطة. في حين زادت خلايا الدم البيضاء بنسبة 30.9% مقارنة بالمجموعة الضابطة ولكن اضافة حمض الاسكوربيك حسن من خصائص الدم في وجود خلوات الرصاص بكافة الجرعات مقارنة بمجموعة الرصاص، وكان أفضل تأثير وجد مع التركيز الاعلى من فيتامين ج (1000 ملجم) حيث ارتفعت خلايا الدم الحمراء بنسبة 27.5% والهيموجلوبين بنسبة 30.2% والهيماتوكريت بنسبة 30.2% والصفائح الدموية بحوالي 45%، بينما انخفضت كرات الدم البيضاء بنسبة 29% مقارنة بمجموعة الرصاص. وقد تسبب الرصاص في زيادة معنوية في الدهون الكلية بنسبة 53.7% والدهون الثلاثية بنسبة 43.6% والكوليسترول بنسبة 50%، الليبوبروتينات منخفضة الكثافة بنسبة 76% والليبوبروتينات منخفضة الكثافة بنسبة 43.8% مقارنة بالمجموعة الضابطة، في حين وجد أن حمض الاسكوربيك يقلل بشكل كبير من الدهون الكلية بنسبة 26.1%، الدهون الثلاثية بنسبة 20.5%، الكوليسترول بنسبة 21.3%. الليبوبروتينات منخفضة الكثافة بنسبة 50%، والليبوبروتينات منخفضة الكثافة بنسبة 20.5% وذلك مع اعلى تركيز من حمض الاسكوربيك (1000 ملجم)، كما زادت الليبوبروتينات الثقيلة بشكل ملحوظ بنسبة 57.5% عن مجموعة الرصاص. وقد زاد الرصاص من مستوى اوكسيد النيتريك بنسبة 53.9% والمواد التفاعلية للحامض الثيوباربتوريك بنسبة 53.3% في البلازما مقارنة مع المجموعة الضابطة، في حين انخفض الجلوتاثيون بنسبة 50% ومضادات الاكسدة الكلية بنسبة 57.9% (مستوى معنوية > 0.05). و كان لحمض الاسكوربيك تأثير على النشاط المضاد للاكسدة، و أفضل تأثير لوحظ مع الجرعات العالية من حمض الاسكوربيك (1000 ملجم)، حيث أدى إلى انخفاض معنوي في مستوى اوكسيد النيتريك بنسبة 23.4% و حامض الثيوباربتوريك بنسبة 20.5%. كما تسبب زيادة كبيرة في الجلوتاثيون بنسبة 60% و مضادات الاكسدة الكلية بنسبة 100% في البلازما مقارنة بمجموعة الرصاص. كما ادي وجود حامض الاسكوربيك الي انخفاض اوكسيد النيتريك و حامض الثيوباربتوريك وزيادة الجلوتاثيون ومضادات الاكسدة الكلية في الأعضاء المختلفة مقارنة بمجموعة الرصاص. ويوصي بشدة زيادة الاستهلاك اليومي من حمض الاسكوربيك (فيتامين ج) إما من طريق الغذاء المتناول ذو المصدر العالي من حمض الاسكوربيك أو من المكملات الغذائية