

JOINT EVENT

3rd International Conference on**ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLIC SYNDROME**

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12th International Conference on**ABDOMINAL IMAGING AND ENDOSCOPY**

June 28-29, 2018 Amsterdam, Netherlands

The role of Multi-Detector CT (MDCT) angiography in assessment of the anatomical variants in celiac axis**Mona Yehia Khattab, Tarek Rashad, Amr El-Abd and Hussein Aref**
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Aim: To study the role of MDCT angiography in assessment of the variations in Celiac Arterial Trunk (CAT) and Hepatic Arterial System system (HAS), which are of considerable importance in liver transplantation, laparoscopic surgeries, abdominal interventions, TACE and abdominal penetrating injuries.

Methods & Results: We prospectively studied 312 patients presenting with abdominal pain with age ranging between 4-85 years imaged by: MDCT scans including non-enhanced phase and post-contrast Arterial phase (25-30 seconds after contrast injection). Regarding the CAT and/or HAS variations 100 patients were documented, from which: eight patients had isolated variations in CAT, 64 patients had isolated HAS variations, 28 patients had CAT variations associated with HAS variations. The most commonly noted variant in CAT was gastro-splenic (20 cases), while the most commonly noted variant in HAS was replaced right hepatic artery from SMA (34 cases). We adopted a new method for categorizing the different caeliac and hepatic arterial variants into a new comprehensive classification.

Conclusions: The celiac axis and its branches are critically important arteries that supply blood to the vital solid and hollow abdominal viscera of the foregut. There are many potential anatomic variants. MDCT angiography is widely used as the first step in evaluation. Our comprehensive classification can easily help with the final imaging diagnoses and thus proper patient treatment.

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Comparative effectiveness of *Abelmoschus esculentus* L. (Okra) and acarbose in lowering blood glucose: An experimental study using streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats**A C Teng, F M C De Guzman, E D V Marcelo, S A Mohamed, S A C Ong Siu, A L P Orille, R P D Punzalan, P S V Sawen and D P Wy**
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Diabetes is presently a serious worldwide epidemic, affecting about 382 million people globally in 2013 and directly causing the deaths of more than 1.5 million people in 2012. This study evaluates the glucose-lowering potential of *Abelmoschus esculentus* L. (Okra) in diabetic rat models as compared to the commercial drug acarbose. In this randomized, double-blind experimental study, 48 streptozotocin-induced diabetic male Sprague Dawley rats aged 75-90 days old and weighing 150-250 grams were divided into three groups: (1) Experimental group which was given 300 mg/kg aqueous extract of *Abelmoschus esculentus* L. (okra), (2) Positive control group which was given 15 mg/kg acarbose, and (3) Negative control group which was given 5 mL/kg distilled water. All groups were concurrently treated once daily orally for seven days. Blood glucose levels were measured one hour after treatment administration using EasyTouch® glucometer. The safety of okra extract and acarbose were also determined based on subject mortality. After seven days, the experimental group and the positive control group demonstrated glucose-lowering effects. However, the decrease in blood glucose from the baseline up to day seven was statistically significant only in the experimental group (p-value<0.05). Comparison of the glucose values among all the groups on day seven demonstrated a significant difference in the experimental group (p value=0.02). This showed that okra extract exhibited a time-dependent effect. Also, statistical analysis of mortality which yielded a nonsignificant result established the safety of acarbose and Okra extract as used in the study. These findings prove the potential beneficial effect of *Abelmoschus esculentus* L. (Okra) in the treatment of diabetes through its glucose-lowering effect which has been exhibited to be comparable to that of the commercially prepared drug acarbose. Thus, it may be developed and used to treat type 2 diabetes in humans.

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