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Data Article

Data on the sub-chronic toxicity in rats after 30 days of oral realgar administration and the accumulation and distribution of arsenic species



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 31 October 2018

Received in revised form

4 December 2018

Accepted 4 December 2018

Available online 07 December 2018

ABSTRACT

These data are related to the research “The accumulation and distribution of arsenic species and association with arsenic toxicity in rats after 30 days of oral realgar administration” (Yi et al., 2019) [1]. These data include the rat body weights, haematology, electrolytes, coagulation and biochemical parameters, and relative organ weights after 30 days of oral administration of realgar, which was consistent with the current OECD guideline “Repeated Dose 28-Day oral Toxicity Study in Rodents”. The data also include the content of arsenite (As(III)), arsenate (As(V)), dimethylarsinic acid (DMA), monomethylarsonic acid (MMAV), arsenic betaine (AsB) and arsenic chrome (AsC) in rat blood, liver, kidneys, brain and urine after single-dose and 30-day oral administration of realgar.

The provided data are intended to demonstrate whether realgar has short-term toxicity and the role of accumulated arsenic species in realgar toxicity.

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DOI of original article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2018.10.037>

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.12.011>

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Specifications table

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Subject area | Toxicology |
| More specific subject area | General toxicity effect |
| Type of data | Tables, figures |
| How data were acquired | Rat toxicity test data were collected according to the M3 guidelines developed by ICH for non-clinical repeated dose toxicity. Measurements of arsenic metabolites and accumulation were performed on an Agilent 7700ce ICP-MS instrument coupled with the Agilent 1200 Series HPLC system. |
| Data format | Raw and analysed |
| Experimental factors | To analyze the short-term toxicity of realgar, rats were treated with different doses of realgar for 30 days. Then, the function and tissue structure changes of the whole-body organs of the rats were tested. Analysis of total arsenic (tAs) and arsenic (As) in rat blood and organs using the Agilent 7700ce ICP-MS instrument and the Agilent 1200 Series HPLC system. |
| Experimental features | Studies were performed under GLP conditions according the current OECD Test guideline TG407 "Repeated Dose 28-Day oral Toxicity Study in Rodents". Comparison of various arsenic species accumulation and distribution. |
| Data source location | Institute of Chinese Materia Medica, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing, China |
| Data accessibility | Data available within the article. |
| Related research article | Yi, Y., Gao, S., Xia, J., Li, C., Zhao, Y., Zhang, Y., Liang A., Ji S. Study of the accumulation and distribution of arsenic species and association with arsenic toxicity in rats after 30 days of oral realgar administration. <i>Journal of Ethnopharmacology</i> . 2019, 11576 [1]. |

Value of the data

- The data show the repeated-dose 30-day oral toxicity of realgar in rats, which provides a reference for the safe dose range for repeated oral administration of realgar for 2 weeks in humans.
- The accumulation and distribution of arsenic species in rat tissues not only helps in understanding the metabolism of arsenic in animals but also helps elucidate the main arsenic-accumulating organs in the body.
- The total arsenic content is not sufficient for the safety evaluation of realgar. The data revealed a possible link between arsenic species and the sub-chronic toxicity of realgar, which can help people study the toxicity of realgar more scientifically and find reasonable prevention and treatment.

1. Data

The content of arsenic species in rats after a single administration of realgar is shown in [Tables 1–5](#). The body weights ([Table 6–8](#)), haematology, electrolytes, coagulation ([Tables 9 and 10](#)), biochemical parameters ([Tables 11 and 12](#)) and relative organ weights ([Tables 13 and 14](#)) of male and female rats after 30 days of administration of realgar are shown below. In addition, the content of arsenic species in the rats is shown in [Tables 15–17](#).

Table 1

Content of arsenic species in the livers of rats from 0 h to 48 h after a single administration of realgar ($n = 6$, 3 males and 3 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | AsC | AsB | As(III) | DMA | MMA | As(V) | tAs |
|--------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.03 ± 0.01 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.28 ± 0.04 | 0.02 ± 0.02 | 0.03 ± 0.05 | 0.82 ± 0.29 |
| 0.25 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.04 ± 0.01 | 2.54 ± 1.33 [*] | 0.67 ± 0.38 | 0.34 ± 0.14 | 0.12 ± 0.04 ^{**} | 5.16 ± 1.91 ^{**} |
| 0.5 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 4.03 ± 1.91 ^{**} | 0.63 ± 0.26 [*] | 0.49 ± 0.12 [*] | 0.27 ± 0.11 ^{***} | 7.55 ± 1.82 ^{**} |
| 1 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 2.58 ± 0.98 ^{**} | 0.91 ± 0.99 | 0.49 ± 0.14 ^{**} | 0.16 ± 0.04 ^{***} | 6.72 ± 2.34 ^{**} |
| 2 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 2.62 ± 1.48 ^{**} | 1.51 ± 0.36 ^{**} | 0.44 ± 0.23 ^{**} | 0.12 ± 0.08 [*] | 6.98 ± 2.79 ^{**} |
| 4 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.03 ± 0.01 | 0.89 ± 0.31 ^{**} | 1.52 ± 0.17 ^{**} | 0.17 ± 0.06 | 0.10 ± 0.05 [*] | 5.18 ± 0.71 ^{**} |
| 8 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.30 ± 0.04 ^{**} | 1.86 ± 0.17 [*] | 0.06 ± 0.06 | 0.05 ± 0.05 | 4.14 ± 0.73 ^{**} |
| 16 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.20 ± 0.04 [*] | 2.58 ± 0.17 ^{**} | 0.03 ± 0.03 | 0.03 ± 0.04 | 4.30 ± 0.82 ^{**} |
| 32 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.04 ± 0.02 | 0.07 ± 0.04 [*] | 1.74 ± 0.28 ^{**} | 0.01 ± 0.02 | 0.03 ± 0.03 | 2.93 ± 0.73 ^{**} |
| 48 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.03 ± 0.01 | 0.06 ± 0.04 [*] | 1.39 ± 0.89 ^{**} | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.04 ± 0.06 | 2.09 ± 1.17 [*] |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). ^{*} $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with the content at 0 h. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 2

Content of arsenic species in the kidneys of rats from 0 h to 48 h after a single administration of realgar ($n = 6$, 3 males and 3 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | AsC | AsB | As(III) | DMA | MMA | As(V) | tAs |
|--------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.07 ± 0.02 | 0.11 ± 0.05 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.19 ± 0.07 | 0.38 ± 0.28 |
| 0.25 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 1.32 ± 0.66 [*] | 0.22 ± 0.05 [*] | 0.19 ± 0.11 [*] | 1.72 ± 0.76 ^{**} | 2.50 ± 1.31 ^{**} |
| 0.5 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.32 ± 1.41 ^{**} | 0.24 ± 0.06 [*] | 0.38 ± 0.08 ^{**} | 3.98 ± 1.39 ^{***} | 6.77 ± 2.86 ^{***} |
| 1 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 1.60 ± 1.13 ^{**} | 0.29 ± 0.12 [*] | 0.40 ± 0.26 ^{**} | 2.32 ± 1.45 ^{**} | 3.64 ± 1.94 ^{**} |
| 2 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 2.46 ± 1.12 | 0.54 ± 0.07 ^{**} | 0.74 ± 0.30 ^{**} | 3.76 ± 1.34 ^{**} | 8.61 ± 5.01 ^{***} |
| 4 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.53 ± 0.27 ^{**} | 0.60 ± 0.10 ^{**} | 0.31 ± 0.13 ^{**} | 1.45 ± 0.47 ^{**} | 2.27 ± 0.69 ^{**} |
| 8 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.18 ± 0.08 ^{**} | 0.57 ± 0.06 ^{**} | 0.16 ± 0.05 ^{**} | 0.92 ± 0.12 ^{**} | 1.57 ± 0.33 ^{**} |
| 16 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.15 ± 0.03 ^{**} | 0.54 ± 0.12 ^{**} | 0.19 ± 0.12 [*] | 0.87 ± 0.25 ^{**} | 1.78 ± 0.76 ^{**} |
| 32 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.12 ± 0.04 [*] | 0.69 ± 0.13 ^{**} | 0.07 ± 0.08 [*] | 0.88 ± 0.22 ^{**} | 1.63 ± 0.75 ^{**} |
| 48 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.13 ± 0.02 [*] | 0.82 ± 0.26 ^{**} | 0.21 ± 0.15 [*] | 1.16 ± 0.24 ^{**} | 2.03 ± 0.27 ^{**} |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). ^{*} $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with the content at 0 h. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 3

Content of arsenic species in the brains of rats from 0 h to 48 h after a single administration of realgar ($n = 6$, 3 males and 3 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | AsC | AsB | As(III) | DMA | MMA | As(V) | tAs |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 0 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.04 ± 0.02 | 0.06 ± 0.02 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.56 ± 0.09 | 1.35 ± 0.30 |
| 0.25 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.06 ± 0.02 | 0.08 ± 0.03 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.64 ± 0.14 | 2.00 ± 0.29 ^{**} |
| 0.5 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.08 ± 0.03 | 0.09 ± 0.03 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.56 ± 0.07 | 1.71 ± 0.20 |
| 1 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.07 ± 0.02 | 0.11 ± 0.03 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.59 ± 0.06 | 1.90 ± 0.28 [*] |
| 2 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.09 ± 0.05 | 0.19 ± 0.06 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.57 ± 0.07 | 1.81 ± 0.21 [*] |
| 4 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.09 ± 0.05 | 0.31 ± 0.07 ^{**} | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.56 ± 0.05 | 1.77 ± 0.30 |
| 8 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.05 ± 0.01 | 0.44 ± 0.06 ^{***} | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.56 ± 0.06 | 2.01 ± 0.46 ^{**} |
| 16 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.06 ± 0.01 | 0.43 ± 0.13 ^{**} | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.58 ± 0.05 | 1.87 ± 0.37 [*] |
| 32 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.05 ± 0.01 | 0.43 ± 0.06 ^{***} | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.57 ± 0.09 | 2.17 ± 0.27 ^{**} |
| 48 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.06 ± 0.02 | 0.40 ± 0.04 ^{***} | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.59 ± 0.10 | 2.05 ± 0.51 ^{**} |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). ^{*} $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with the content at 0 h. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 4

Content of arsenic species in the plasma of rats from 0 h to 48 h after a single administration of realgar ($n = 6$, 3 males and 3 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | AsC | AsB | As(III) | DMA | MMA | As(V) | tAs |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 0 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.88 ± 0.06 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.19 ± 0.03 | 4.06 ± 0.70 |
| 0.25 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.53 ± 0.27 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.22 ± 0.02 | 3.73 ± 0.35 |
| 0.5 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.94 ± 1.46 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.24 ± 0.04 | 4.24 ± 1.51 |
| 1 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 4.85 ± 1.23 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.23 ± 0.04 | 5.20 ± 0.19 |
| 2 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 6.96 ± 2.41* | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.23 ± 0.02 | 7.29 ± 2.42* |
| 4 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 11.85 ± 4.13** | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.19 ± 0.06 | 12.40 ± 4.29** |
| 8 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 18.80 ± 4.50*** | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.19 ± 0.02 | 19.05 ± 4.28*** |
| 16 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 31.75 ± 4.33*** | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.13 ± 0.09 | 31.60 ± 4.25*** |
| 32 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 26.95 ± 0.61*** | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.18 ± 0.02 | 27.10 ± 4.87*** |
| 48 h | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 35.70 ± 5.11*** | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.20 ± 0.02 | 35.95 ± 5.14*** |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with the content at 0 h. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 5

Content of arsenic species in the urine of rats from 0 h to 48 h after a single administration of realgar ($n = 6$, 3 males and 3 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Artenic species | Control | 0–12 h | 12–24 h |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| AsC | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.00 ± 0.00 |
| AsB | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.01 ± 0.00 | 0.01 ± 0.01 |
| As(III) | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.47 ± 0.14* | 0.09 ± 0.10* |
| DMA | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 3.19 ± 0.18** | 1.01 ± 0.59* |
| MMA | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.71 ± 0.06** | 0.28 ± 0.28 |
| As(V) | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 0.42 ± 0.02 | 0.11 ± 0.11 |
| t-As | 0.00 ± 0.00 | 10.30 ± 0.33*** | 3.48 ± 0.51*** |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with the content at 0 h. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 6

Body weights of male rats after treatment with realgar at 170 mg/kg for 30 days ($n = 5$, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | Control | Realgar | | |
|------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| 0 d | 236.15 ± 11.01 | 236.00 ± 11.77 | 234.64 ± 11.65 | 235.48 ± 13.34 |
| 8 d | 280.64 ± 16.24 | 284.06 ± 13.76 | 281.99 ± 14.99 | 284.11 ± 15.12 |
| 15 d | 326.56 ± 23.67 | 331.36 ± 18.18 | 328.18 ± 17.69 | 329.03 ± 19.82 |
| 22 d | 346.47 ± 28.63 | 351.55 ± 21.62 | 349.32 ± 20.06 | 345.97 ± 22.00 |
| 29 d | 390.89 ± 32.97 | 385.82 ± 22.96 | 387.12 ± 28.14 | 379.35 ± 35.60 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. The body weights per time are compared to those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

2.1. Single administration of realgar and biological sample collection

The rats were fasted for 16 h and then given a single realgar dose of 0 mg/kg (control) or 170 mg/kg (the realgar groups). Then, a blood sample was taken from the medial canthus vein of each mouse at 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, and 48 h. Blood samples were anticoagulated and centrifuged to obtain plasma samples. Finally, rats were euthanized and their livers, kidneys and brains were removed.

Table 7Body weights of female rats after treatment with realgar at 170 mg/kg for 30 days ($n = 5$, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Time | Control | Realgar | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| 0 d | 182.64 \pm 10.40 | 181.67 \pm 12.32 | 182.65 \pm 10.50 | 182.75 \pm 10.20 |
| 8 d | 204.94 \pm 10.62 | 203.50 \pm 13.53 | 202.33 \pm 10.66 | 205.83 \pm 12.78 |
| 15 d | 218.84 \pm 12.35 | 222.83 \pm 18.72 | 221.51 \pm 11.78 | 223.68 \pm 13.99 |
| 22 d | 231.82 \pm 13.84 | 230.12 \pm 20.79 | 229.27 \pm 13.44 | 237.42 \pm 13.88 |
| 29 d | 248.26 \pm 16.50 | 240.21 \pm 30.77 | 242.82 \pm 22.68 | 246.71 \pm 20.75 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) \pm standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. The body weights per time are compared to those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 8Haematological data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in male rats ($n = 5$, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| WBC ($10^9/L$) | 4.09 \pm 0.45 | 5.60 \pm 1.36 | 5.49 \pm 1.43 [†] | 5.20 \pm 1.15 [†] |
| RBC ($10^{12}/L$) | 7.09 \pm 0.32 | 7.05 \pm 0.51 | 7.52 \pm 0.25 [†] | 7.53 \pm 0.42 |
| HGB (g/L) | 127.00 \pm 5.48 | 128.20 \pm 6.53 | 130.60 \pm 3.78 | 135.40 \pm 7.64 [†] |
| HCT (%) | 39.72 \pm 1.47 | 39.52 \pm 2.07 | 40.20 \pm 1.20 | 41.72 \pm 2.13 |
| MCV (fL) | 56.02 \pm 1.44 | 56.12 \pm 1.46 | 53.48 \pm 1.22 ^{**} | 55.44 \pm 0.35 |
| MCH (pg) | 17.88 \pm 0.50 | 18.24 \pm 0.47 | 17.36 \pm 0.40 | 17.96 \pm 0.15 |
| MCHC (g/L) | 319.20 \pm 5.31 | 324.80 \pm 4.55 | 324.60 \pm 2.07 [†] | 324.40 \pm 3.05 [†] |
| PLT ($10^9/L$) | 1202.20 \pm 112.52 | 1251.40 \pm 178.27 | 1323.00 \pm 119.52 | 1192.60 \pm 111.39 |
| Gr (%) | 70.80 \pm 5.85 | 78.82 \pm 4.84 [†] | 82.90 \pm 1.80 ^{**} | 79.20 \pm 3.12 [†] |
| Ly (%) | 4.58 \pm 0.91 | 3.02 \pm 0.739 | 2.32 \pm 0.56 | 2.66 \pm 0.69 |
| MO (%) | 24.62 \pm 5.42 | 18.16 \pm 4.59 [†] | 14.44 \pm 1.71 ^{**} | 17.78 \pm 2.69 [†] |
| PT (S) | 12.20 \pm 0.58 | 12.58 \pm 0.42 | 12.68 \pm 0.40 | 10.98 \pm 4.15 |
| APTT (S) | 19.20 \pm 1.31 | 17.60 \pm 1.36 [†] | 20.32 \pm 1.58 | 18.26 \pm 3.15 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) \pm standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance. WBC: white blood cells; RBC: red blood cells; HGB: haemoglobin; HCT: haematocrit; MCV: mean corpuscular volume; MCH: mean corpuscular haemoglobin; MCHC: mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration; PLT: blood platelet number; GR%: neutrophilic granulocyte ratio; LY%: lymphocyte ratio; MO: monocytes ratio; PT: prothrombin time; APTT: activated partial thromboplastin time.

2.2. Detection of the toxicity of realgar in rats after 30 days of oral administration [2,3]

In total, 40 rats were randomly and equally divided into 4 groups as follows: ① the control group; ② the realgar 10.6 mg/kg/d group; ③ the realgar 40.5 mg/kg/d group; and ④ the realgar 170 mg/kg/d group. All rats were orally administered either 0.3% carboxymethylcellulose sodium (CMC-Na) in ultra-pure water (control group) or realgar (realgar groups) once daily for 30 consecutive days. At 31 days, the rats were anaesthetized using an intraperitoneal injection of phenobarbital sodium. Blood samples were then collected from the abdominal aorta for haematology, coagulation, biochemical and electrolyte analyses. Finally, the rats were sacrificed, and all organs were excised, observed, and weighed.

2.3. Analysis of the accumulation and distribution of As species in biological samples [4]

An Agilent 7700ce ICP-MS instrument coupled with the Agilent 1200 Series HPLC system was used for quantitative analyses of the tAs and As species content in rats plasma and organs.

Table 9Haematological data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in female rats ($n = 5, \bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| WBC ($10^9/L$) | 2.51 \pm 0.35 | 3.75 \pm 1.35 | 3.40 \pm 0.97 [*] | 3.17 \pm 0.96 |
| RBC ($10^{12}/L$) | 6.47 \pm 0.29 | 6.71 \pm 0.27 | 6.66 \pm 0.20 | 6.82 \pm 0.19 [*] |
| HGB (g/L) | 114.00 \pm 4.30 | 119.80 \pm 4.49 [*] | 120.60 \pm 3.71 [*] | 120.80 \pm 3.11 [*] |
| HCT (%) | 35.62 \pm 1.01 | 36.62 \pm 1.33 | 36.52 \pm 1.05 | 36.72 \pm 0.59 [*] |
| MCV (fL) | 55.10 \pm 1.01 | 54.56 \pm 1.68 | 54.86 \pm 1.53 | 53.90 \pm 1.59 |
| MCH (pg) | 17.66 \pm 0.51 | 17.84 \pm 0.61 | 18.14 \pm 0.56 | 17.76 \pm 0.44 |
| MCHC (g/L) | 320.00 \pm 6.36 | 326.80 \pm 1.48 [*] | 330.40 \pm 2.07 ^{**} | 329.20 \pm 4.82 [*] |
| PLT ($10^9/L$) | 111.80 \pm 119.29 | 1041.40 \pm 86.51 | 1128.00 \pm 41.84 | 1218.60 \pm 85.36 |
| Gr (%) | 76.42 \pm 4.74 | 80.40 \pm 7.44 | 81.12 \pm 5.19 | 79.00 \pm 7.39 |
| Ly (%) | 3.04 \pm 0.98 | 5.62 \pm 6.88 | 3.46 \pm 0.95 | 3.84 \pm 1.00 |
| MO (%) | 20.04 \pm 4.62 | 13.58 \pm 8.14 | 15.06 \pm 5.50 | 16.72 \pm 6.70 |
| PT (S) | 13.16 \pm 0.51 | 13.62 \pm 0.30 | 13.48 \pm 0.41 | 11.43 \pm 4.75 |
| APTT (S) | 21.62 \pm 2.04 | 21.64 \pm 3.76 | 19.62 \pm 2.29 | 18.96 \pm 2.25 [*] |

All values are expressed as the means (M) \pm standard deviation (SD). ^{*} $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance. WBC: white blood cells; RBC: red blood cells; HGB: haemoglobin; HCT: haematocrit; MCV: mean corpuscular volume; MCH: mean corpuscular haemoglobin; MCHC: mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration; PLT: blood platelet number; GR%: neutrophilic granulocyte ratio; LY%: lymphocyte ratio; MO: monocytes ratio; PT: prothrombin time; APTT: activated partial thromboplastin time.

Table 10Serum biochemistry data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in male rats ($n = 5, \bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| ALB (g/L) | 32.74 \pm 1.28 | 32.30 \pm 3.47 | 31.52 \pm 0.74 | 32.12 \pm 1.38 |
| ALP (IU) | 118.80 \pm 16.10 | 105.20 \pm 13.26 | 110.00 \pm 10.27 | 94.60 \pm 5.18 [*] |
| ALT (U/L) | 36.60 \pm 4.98 | 33.40 \pm 4.83 | 30.60 \pm 3.13 [*] | 31.60 \pm 5.86 |
| AST (U/L) | 113.20 \pm 23.13 | 137.80 \pm 20.86 | 94.00 \pm 7.35 | 128.00 \pm 10.56 |
| T-CHO (mmol/L) | 1.91 \pm 0.18 | 32.30 \pm 3.47 | 31.52 \pm 0.74 | 32.12 \pm 1.38 |
| CK-NAC (U/L) | 378.00 \pm 168.30 | 181.00 \pm 120.66 [*] | 565.20 \pm 98.01 [*] | 379.80 \pm 46.24 |
| CRE (μ mol/L) | 45.60 \pm 1.67 | 44.20 \pm 1.30 | 47.80 \pm 1.64 [*] | 45.60 \pm 2.51 |
| γ -GT (U/L) | 0.34 \pm 0.18 | 0.22 \pm 0.18 | 0.20 \pm 0.14 | 0.24 \pm 0.09 |
| GLU (mmol/L) | 5.89 \pm 0.18 | 7.84 \pm 0.52 ^{***} | 7.88 \pm 0.49 ^{***} | 7.39 \pm 0.25 ^{***} |
| BUN (mmol/L) | 5.92 \pm 0.26 | 5.00 \pm 0.48 ^{**} | 5.14 \pm 0.38 ^{**} | 5.92 \pm 0.70 |
| TBIL (μ mol/L) | 4.48 \pm 0.89 | 4.70 \pm 0.65 | 7.88 \pm 3.06 [*] | 5.00 \pm 0.75 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 0.46 \pm 0.11 | 0.38 \pm 0.09 | 0.37 \pm 0.05 | 0.39 \pm 0.18 |
| TP (g/L) | 55.28 \pm 2.70 | 52.46 \pm 0.96 [*] | 54.24 \pm 3.93 | 52.26 \pm 2.47 |
| Na (mmol/L) | 143.32 \pm 5.72 | 140.30 \pm 1.38 | 138.90 \pm 0.84 | 140.18 \pm 1.38 |
| K (mmol/L) | 4.44 \pm 0.43 | 3.93 \pm 0.40 [*] | 5.02 \pm 0.52 [*] | 4.38 \pm 0.16 |
| Cl (mmol/L) | 109.16 \pm 4.67 | 108.06 \pm 1.78 | 108.56 \pm 0.39 | 108.30 \pm 1.41 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) \pm standard deviation (SD). ^{*} $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance. ALB: total albumin; ALP: alkaline phosphatase; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase; CHO: cholesterol; CK: creatine kinase; CRE: creatinine; GGT: γ -glutamyl transpeptidase; GLU: glucose; TBIL: total bilirubin; TG: triglycerides; TP: total protein; BUN: blood urea nitrogen; Na+: sodium; K+: potassium; Cl-: chloride.

Table 11Serum biochemistry data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in female rats ($n = 5, \bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| ALB (g/L) | 32.24 ± 2.38 | 29.30 ± 0.53 [†] | 29.06 ± 1.25 [†] | 30.34 ± 1.17 |
| ALP (IU) | 54.40 ± 10.38 | 72.40 ± 18.72 ^{**} | 63.80 ± 14.02 | 60.80 ± 14.08 |
| ALT (U/L) | 33.20 ± 6.30 | 36.00 ± 4.42 | 25.00 ± 3.08 [†] | 25.80 ± 3.77 [†] |
| AST (U/L) | 118.20 ± 13.03 | 111.60 ± 13.67 | 113.20 ± 13.88 | 112.20 ± 30.44 |
| T-CHO (mmol/L) | 1.42 ± 0.31 | 1.19 ± 0.18 | 1.21 ± 0.21 | 1.30 ± 0.16 |
| CK-NAC (U/L) | 348.00 ± 135.51 | 318.60 ± 87.27 | 371.40 ± 55.56 | 457.00 ± 239.78 |
| CRE (μmol/L) | 51.80 ± 2.28 | 48.00 ± 4.85 ^{**} | 47.00 ± 4.64 [†] | 49.20 ± 5.22 |
| γ-GT (U/L) | 0.46 ± 0.17 | 0.46 ± 0.09 | 0.44 ± 0.25 | 0.60 ± 0.10 |
| GLU (mmol/L) | 6.46 ± 0.49 | 6.65 ± 0.38 | 6.62 ± 0.48 | 6.15 ± 0.51 |
| BUN (mmol/L) | 7.05 ± 1.02 | 7.55 ± 2.07 | 5.44 ± 0.58 ^{**} | 6.17 ± 1.54 |
| TBIL (μmol/L) | 3.14 ± 0.32 | 3.32 ± 0.70 | 2.70 ± 0.50 | 3.32 ± 0.67 |
| TG (mmol/L) | 0.25 ± 0.03 | 0.27 ± 0.06 | 0.24 ± 0.03 | 0.32 ± 0.03 ^{**} |
| TP (g/L) | 52.32 ± 2.80 | 48.38 ± 0.91 | 48.24 ± 1.51 [†] | 50.12 ± 2.10 |
| Na (mmol/L) | 140.72 ± 1.41 | 141.30 ± 0.74 | 138.34 ± 3.57 | 139.72 ± 1.30 |
| K (mmol/L) | 3.72 ± 0.29 | 4.23 ± 0.52 [†] | 3.79 ± 0.18 | 3.74 ± 0.11 |
| Cl (mmol/L) | 109.90 ± 1.88 | 110.82 ± 1.47 | 108.14 ± 2.88 | 109.32 ± 0.79 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). [†] $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance. ALB: total albumin; ALP: alkaline phosphatase; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase; CHO: cholesterol; CK: creatine kinase; CRE: creatinine; GGT: γ-glutamyl transpeptidase; GLU: glucose; TBIL: total bilirubin; TG: triglycerides; TP: total protein; BUN: blood urea nitrogen; Na+: sodium; K+: potassium; Cl-: chloride.

Table 12

Relative organ weights data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in male rats (%).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| Heart | 0.323 ± 0.033 | 0.334 ± 0.020 | 0.311 ± 0.022 | 0.317 ± 0.020 |
| Liver | 2.952 ± 0.247 | 3.012 ± 0.120 | 3.082 ± 0.198 | 2.514 ± 0.860 |
| Spleen | 0.250 ± 0.030 | 0.230 ± 0.167 | 0.235 ± 0.016 | 0.269 ± 0.037 |
| Lung | 0.415 ± 0.046 | 0.429 ± 0.043 | 0.433 ± 0.033 | 0.435 ± 0.028 |
| Kidney | 0.746 ± 0.034 | 0.686 ± 0.164 | 0.728 ± 0.035 | 0.730 ± 0.061 |
| Brain | 0.522 ± 0.034 | 0.560 ± 0.044 | 0.544 ± 0.026 | 0.551 ± 0.058 |
| Stomach | 0.018 ± 0.003 | 0.020 ± 0.003 | 0.020 ± 0.003 | 0.018 ± 0.004 |
| Adrenal gland | 0.376 ± 0.120 | 0.401 ± 0.092 | 0.352 ± 0.085 | 0.389 ± 0.099 |
| Thymus | 0.944 ± 0.067 | 0.778 ± 0.435 | 0.902 ± 0.144 | 1.035 ± 0.058 |
| Testis | 0.256 ± 0.086 | 0.211 ± 0.035 | 0.194 ± 0.017 [†] | 0.230 ± 0.048 |
| Epididymis | 0.205 ± 0.056 | 0.182 ± 0.020 | 0.170 ± 0.074 | 0.162 ± 0.060 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). [†] $p < 0.05$, ^{**} $p < 0.01$, ^{***} $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 13

Relative organ weights data from the oral administration of realgar for 30 days in female rats (%).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|--------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| Heart | 0.355 ± 0.016 | 0.369 ± 0.048 | 0.370 ± 0.038 | 0.371 ± 0.026 |
| Liver | 3.083 ± 0.106 | 3.124 ± 0.132 | 2.774 ± 0.073 ^{**} | 2.798 ± 0.108 ^{**} |
| Spleen | 0.314 ± 0.027 | 0.275 ± 0.014 [†] | 0.285 ± 0.015 [†] | 0.323 ± 0.028 |
| Lung | 0.511 ± 0.022 | 0.625 ± 0.188 | 0.539 ± 0.042 | 0.555 ± 0.024 |
| Kidney | 0.710 ± 0.025 | 0.720 ± 0.023 | 0.742 ± 0.061 | 0.715 ± 0.025 |

Table 13 (continued)

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| Brain | 0.826 ± 0.040 | 0.770 ± 0.055 | 0.811 ± 0.072 | 0.895 ± 0.081 |
| Stomach | 0.038 ± 0.007 | 0.035 ± 0.007 | 0.042 ± 0.006 | 0.042 ± 0.013 |
| Adrenal gland | 0.255 ± 0.163 | 0.231 ± 0.068 | 0.301 ± 0.079 | 0.276 ± 0.040 |
| Thymus | 0.220 ± 0.313 | 0.080 ± 0.010 | 0.070 ± 0.010 | 0.075 ± 0.010 |
| Testis | 0.396 ± 0.373 | 0.245 ± 0.054 | 0.228 ± 0.033 | 0.251 ± 0.188 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 14

Plasma arsenic species content in rats after oral administration of realgar for 30 days ($n = 10$, 5 males and 5 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| As(III) | 0.02 ± 0.02 | 0.02 ± 0.02 | 0.02 ± 0.02 | 0.02 ± 0.01 |
| DMA | 7.91 ± 0.70 | 67.11 ± 2.29*** | 168.94 ± 8.92*** | 236.27 ± 8.05*** |
| MMA | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.04 ± 0.01 | 0.02 ± 0.02 | 0.04 ± 0.03 |
| As(V) | 0.08 ± 0.05 | 0.04 ± 0.03 | 0.04 ± 0.03 | 0.03 ± 0.02 |
| tAs | 8.49 ± 0.58 | 68.62 ± 2.66*** | 174.56 ± 10.98*** | 253.50 ± 23.33*** |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 15

Liver arsenic species content in rats after oral administration of realgar for 30 days ($n = 10$, 5 males and 5 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| AsC | 0.004 ± 0.002 | 0.005 ± 0.003 | 0.005 ± 0.002 | 0.004 ± 0.003 |
| AsB | 0.003 ± 0.002 | 0.003 ± 0.002 | 0.062 ± 0.052 | 0.236 ± 0.128* |
| As(III) | 0.009 ± 0.007 | 0.026 ± 0.025 | 0.074 ± 0.048 | 0.359 ± 0.122** |
| DMA | 0.959 ± 0.145 | 10.321 ± 2.460** | 23.099 ± 3.384*** | 31.678 ± 5.544*** |
| MMA | 0.018 ± 0.012 | 0.019 ± 0.013 | 0.019 ± 0.007 | 0.020 ± 0.014 |
| As(V) | 0.023 ± 0.01 | 0.029 ± 0.014 | 0.024 ± 0.012 | 0.021 ± 0.011 |
| tAs | 2.298 ± 0.379 | 15.545 ± 2.518** | 28.135 ± 4.833*** | 38.300 ± 7.788*** |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 16

Kidney arsenic species content in rats after oral administration of realgar for 30 days ($n = 10$, 5 males and 5 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|---------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| AsC | 0.002 ± 0.001 | 0.001 ± 0.001 | 0.001 ± 0.000 | 0.005 ± 0.007 |
| AsB | 0.003 ± 0.001 | 0.003 ± 0.001 | 0.002 ± 0.000 | 0.006 ± 0.009 |
| As(III) | 0.047 ± 0.006 | 0.055 ± 0.008 | 0.066 ± 0.007* | 0.250 ± 0.122* |
| DMA | 0.595 ± 0.113 | 3.973 ± 0.750*** | 11.435 ± 0.635*** | 18.470 ± 3.007** |
| MMA | 0.004 ± 0.004 | 0.121 ± 0.105** | 0.987 ± 1.844** | 7.626 ± 1.844* |
| As(V) | 0.015 ± 0.011 | 0.011 ± 0.010 | 0.024 ± 0.015 | 0.441 ± 0.433 |
| tAs | 3.678 ± 0.558 | 10.054 ± 2.813** | 25.025 ± 7.365** | 54.434 ± 15.210* |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Table 17

Brain arsenic species content in rats after oral administration of realgar for 30 days ($n = 10$, 5 males and 5 females per group, $\bar{x} \pm SD$).

| Item | Control | Realgar | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | 10.6 mg/kg | 40.5 mg/kg | 170 mg/kg |
| AsC | 0.001 ± 0.000 | 0.001 ± 0.001 | 0.001 ± 0.000 | 0.002 ± 0.001 |
| AsB | 0.003 ± 0.001 | 0.004 ± 0.001 | 0.002 ± 0.000 | 0.003 ± 0.003 |
| As(III) | 0.041 ± 0.006 | 0.059 ± 0.008* | 0.067 ± 0.009** | 0.233 ± 0.073* |
| DMA | 0.08 ± 0.05 | 0.845 ± 0.153** | 2.166 ± 0.222*** | 2.997 ± 0.347*** |
| MMA | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.03 ± 0.02 | 0.02 ± 0.01 |
| As(V) | 0.01 ± 0.01 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.02 ± 0.01 | 0.02 ± 0.01 |
| tAs | 0.91 ± 0.18 | 1.80 ± 0.52 | 4.03 ± 1.07 | 5.70 ± 0.64 |

All values are expressed as the means (M) ± standard deviation (SD). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Values are compared with those of the control group. Differences were analysed by a one-way analysis of variance.

Acknowledgements

We thank Ms. Lifang Wang and Mr. Baoqiang Dai (Institute of Chinese Materia Medica, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing, China) for assisting with the animal care.

Transparency document. Supplementary material

Transparency document associated with this article can be found in the online version at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2018.12.011>.

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