



Applicability of Histopathological and Biochemical Data of Anthracyclines Cardiotoxicity in Animal Studies for Regulatory Purposes

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Abstract

Anthracyclines are commonly used anticancer drugs with important therapeutic applications and well-known and extensively studied cardiotoxic effects in humans. In the clinical setting guidelines for assessing and treating cardiotoxicity in humans are well established. Apart from pharmaceuticals, other everyday chemicals have lately been implicated in causing cardiotoxic effects in humans, as a side effect. In the current general toxicology regulatory framework, cardiotoxicity is not a distinct endpoint and no objective criteria or reference values exist in the regulations in order to uniformly characterize cardio-toxic adverse effects observed in animal models with relevance to humans. This in depth review uses cardiotoxicity caused by anthracyclines in rat as the gold standard model and focuses on the evaluation of the most common histopathological lesions reported and the alterations observed in biomarkers of oxidative stress and inflammation of the cardiovascular function in rat studies of anthracycline induced cardiotoxicity. The present review comes as a continuation of a previous study of our group that described the echocardiographic observations of the rat anthracycline cardiotoxicity model. All these range values and histopathology findings registered could be used to differentiate normal cardiac function in animals from pathological findings indicative of cardiotoxicity and could eventually be applied to recognize possible cardiotoxic effects of everyday chemicals. The analysis of the gathered data in this review gives promising results and creates prospects for defining cardiotoxicity reference values in animal species based on the anthracycline model and eventually developing potential guidelines for assessing cardiotoxicity as a separate hazard class of everyday chemicals for regulatory purposes.

Keywords: Anthracyclines; Histopathology; Inflammation; Oxidative stress; Rats

Abbreviations: LAD: Left Anterior Descending Artery; IL-1 β : Interleukin 1 β ; IL-6 :Interleukin 6; TNF- α :Tumor Necrosis Factor alpha; cTnT: cardiac Troponin T; cTnI:cardiac Troponin I; ST elevation: refers to ST-segment from echocardiogram; β AR:beta Adrenergic Receptor; CV: Cardiovascular; MDA: Malondialdehyde; CAT: Catalase; GPx: Glutathione Peroxide; GSH: Glutathione; SOD: Superoxide Dismutase; GPX1- β : Isoenzyme of Glutathione Peroxide; ROS: Reactive Oxygen Species; EF: Ejection Fraction; FS: Fraction Shortening; NT-proBNP: N-terminal pro B-type Natriuretic Peptide; BNP: B-type Natriuretic Peptide; ANP: Atrial Natriuretic Peptide; LV: Left Ventricle; CMR: Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance; GLS : Global Longitudinal Strain; AAS : Anabolic Androgenicstereoids

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Citation: Nikolaos Avgeros, Nektaria Kompi, Georgia Papadimitriou, Konstantinos Tsarouhas, Christina Tsitsimpikou, George EN Kass, Jean-Lou CM Dorne, Dimitrios Kouretas, Nikolaos Georgiadis. Applicability of Histopathological and Biochemical Data of Anthracyclines Cardiotoxicity in Animal Studies for Regulatory Purposes. Journal of Biotechnology and Biomedicine. 8 (2025): 184-243.

Received: April 15, 2025

Accepted: May 06, 2025

Published: July 03, 2025

Introduction

Cardiotoxicity caused by chemotherapeutic agents is a significant issue for clinicians managing various types of cancer, as it can limit treatment strategies and negatively impact patient survival. In preclinical animal studies designed to assess new anticancer compounds and potential cardioprotective agents, accurately determining the degree of cardiotoxicity is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of any intervention aimed at mitigating these adverse effects [1]. Anthracyclines are strong chemotherapy agents extracted from *Streptomyces* spp. used to treat a range of blood-related and solid cancers. The available types for treatment are daunorubicin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, idarubicin, mitoxantrone and valrubicin [2-3]. These compounds are used for the treatment of many cancers, like leukemia, lymphomas and breast, stomach, uterine, ovarian, lung and bladder cancers. Anthracyclines are widely recognized for their cardiotoxic properties, often leading to myocardial impairment in a significant portion of patients. In preclinical studies, they are commonly employed as a simple and cost-effective method to induce dilated cardiomyopathy in animal models [4]. This approach serves as an alternative to more invasive experimental models of cardiac infarction or ischemia, such as permanent ligation of the left anterior descending (LAD) artery or the use of a cryo-probe to create localized ischemic damage on the heart. The literature describes a variety of animal species and administration protocols, involving different dosages and delivery methods of anthracyclines, aimed at inducing cardiotoxicity [5]. These models are used not only to track the progression of cardiac damage but also to assess the effectiveness of various therapeutic agents and intervention strategies in-tended to reduce myocardial injury. For the evaluation of anthracycline-related cardiotoxicity, biochemical markers are used in addition to cardiac imaging [6]. At the same time, other pharmaceutical compounds have been linked to negative alterations in cardiac pathology, resulting in compromised heart function, while there is increasing scientific evidence that everyday chemicals, such as metals pesticides and ethanol, could cause acute or long-lasting cardiovascular impairment in humans [7].

Chemicals, through the various steps of their lifecycle, including production, handling, transport use and disposal, could represent an important risk for the environment and human health. People regardless their demographic characteristics are exposed to everyday chemicals, from pesticides to detergents and cosmetics, either intentionally or through passive exposure. Toxicity and risk for human health posed by chemicals are well controlled at a European level through a thoroughly developed regulatory network. However, in many regulatory frameworks, cardiotoxicity is not defined as a stand-alone hazard nor are there harmonized criteria for classifying substances as cardiotoxic. Identifying

the hazard in advance (before adverse effects are observed in humans) and regulating chemical substances that could lead to cardiovascular toxicity would undoubtedly strengthen the national health systems. Although in the Global Harmonized System (GHS) under the auspices of United Nations, there is a generic hazard class (i.e. Specific target Organ Toxicity STOT, single or repeated exposure), which could potentially capture cardiotoxicity, the lack of established criteria still remains. Furthermore, cardiotoxicity, due to its strong relevance to human health, regardless of age, sex or other demographic characteristics, could represent a hazard of equivalent level of concern to CMRs (carcinogenic, mutagenic, reproductive) toxicants or endocrine disruptors. A recent publication [48] has outlined a roadmap for deriving regulatory criteria from animal studies to support legislation for classifying substances as cardiotoxic, and a related initiative has also received endorsement from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In a previous study [6], echocardiographic indices of anthracycline induced cardiotoxicity in rats have been reviewed, in the same context as described above, and encouraging results regarding establishing threshold values of ejection fraction (EF) and fractional shortening (FS) alterations in rats with cardiotoxicity induced by anthracyclines have been reported. In the present study, alterations of biomarker indices of oxidative stress and inflammation in rats exposed to anthracyclines are reviewed, together with the histopathological findings re-reported, in order to elucidate whether these three lines of evidence could be further used to identify cardiotoxicity in animal studies. Since cardiotoxicity is not a distinct endpoint recognized by OECD, no testing guidelines are available for animal models and animal studies. Therefore, there is no uniformity in animal models of cardiotoxicity induction and most importantly, not all studies describe the same decline of myocardial function, as it most often lies to the expert judgement of the study authors. Moreover, the echocardiographic assessment of myocardial function decline in many published animal studies claiming cardiotoxicity was not utilized. It is therefore a need to delineate if specific biochemical alterations and histopathological findings could serve as a stand-alone tool or in conjunction with echocardiography to define cardiotoxicity in animal studies. Since anthracycline induced cardiotoxicity is regarded as an established animal model, its applicability to serve the regulatory needs described above to identify cardiovascular implications of unknown origin possibly attributed to chemicals exposure, is explored. The rat is again chosen as the species of interest in accordance with previous studies in the same regulatory framework [6]. In the current in-depth review, the authors focus on the evaluation of the most common histopathological lesions reported and the alterations observed in biomarkers of oxidative stress and inflammation of the cardiovascular function in rat studies of anthracycline induced cardiotoxicity. Whether range or

threshold values of these indices could differentiate normal animals from animals with anthracycline induced cardiotoxic effects is also discussed.

Materials and Methods

Figure 1 illustrates the chemical structures of the anthracyclines used in the studies. These compounds were administered, in the sequence presented, through various routes including intraperitoneal and intravenous injections, or orally via feed. Dosing frequency ranged from one to three times per week, with treatment durations spanning from one to ten weeks. In most cases, administration was halted upon confirmation of cardiotoxicity. The data indicate that there is no universal dosing threshold for inducing the effect; rather, it appears to vary across studies and may be influenced by factors such as the animals' age and overall health status. A systematic search of the PubMed database was conducted to identify all original research articles published between March 2020 and October 2023, following the guidelines of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement [8].

Histopathological findings

PubMed Advanced Search Builder was used to search throughout all Fields and the utilized filters in separate searches were as follows:

- 1) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "anthracycline" AND "histopathology"
- 2) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "anthracycline" AND "lesion"

- 3) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "anthracycline" AND "staining"
- 4) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "doxorubicin" AND "histopathology"
- 5) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "doxorubicin" AND "lesion"
- 6) "Cardiotoxicity" AND "rats" AND "doxorubicin" AND "staining"

The list of studies obtained was additionally reviewed for the relevance of the subject and the eligibility by screening the titles and abstracts of the full paper. Only the original research studies were used and other particular filter was used. The cumulative count of articles retrieved from each of the afore-mentioned individual searches amounted to 384 articles, with 84 articles coming from a previous study [6] of the same research group targeting echocardiographic indices added to the list of studies in order to be used for comparison. From the pool of articles yielded from the above-mentioned search strategy of the present study, 130 were deemed suitable for inclusion in this study. 208 articles were excluded due to being duplicates, 11 articles were not available for various reasons, 20 articles due to inappropriate species tested, 9 articles due to no anthracycline used, 84 articles due to no histopathological data and at last 6 articles due to irrelevant organ tested. (Fig. 3).

Biomarkers of inflammation

The specific literature search strategy which used, was:

"*Cardiotoxicity*" AND "*rats*" AND "*anthracycline*" AND "*inflammation*"

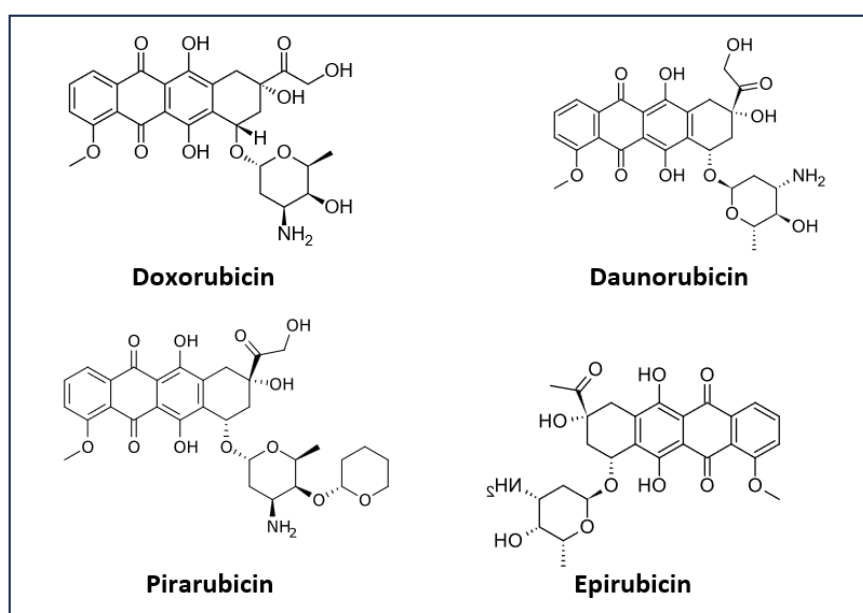


Figure 1: Chemical structures of the four anthracyclines mostly used to induce cardiotoxicity in rats. [270-273].

“*Cardiotoxicity*” AND “*rats*” AND “*daunorubicin*”
AND “*inflammation*”

“*Cardiotoxicity*” AND “*rats*” AND “*doxorubicin*”
AND “*inflammation*”

“*Cardiotoxicity*” AND “*rats*” AND “*epirubicin*”
AND “*inflammation*”

either in the Title, or in the Abstracts. The list of studies obtained was also re-viewed for the relevance of the subject and the eligibility by screening the titles and abstracts of the full paper. Only the original research studies were used.

Only animal data retrieved from rat species were evaluated, as indicated from the search strategy, following the roadmap strategy identified in previous studies [6,48]. Various anthracyclines administration modes were applied in the studies screened in the present review (Table 2): Anthracyclines were administered either intraperitoneally, intravenously, or orally through feed. While a minority of studies employed acute administration, most involved prolonged treatment periods ranging from 2 to 10 weeks. Dosing frequencies varied—once, twice, or three times per week—with overall treatment durations spanning from one to ten weeks. All dosing protocols were deliberately designed to induce cardiotoxicity. In the majority of studies, treatment was discontinued upon confirmation of cardiotoxic effects, as documented by the respective authors. Previous findings based on echocardiographic measurements indicate that there is no universal dosing threshold that reliably triggers cardiotoxicity. Instead, the onset appears to be experiment-specific and influenced by factors such as the animals’ age, general health, and the method of administration. Notably, the mode of administration did not significantly impact the observed reduction in ejection fraction (%EF) and fractional shortening (%FS) [6]. From the 227 studies screened, 147 were excluded as duplicates, 2 were excluded because they were not available (no free access), 19 were excluded due to inappropriate species, 4 due to irrelevant organs, 4 because no anthracyclines were used, and 10 because there were no data for the inflammation biomarkers (IL-1 β , IL-6, TNF- α) along with cTnT, cTnI, representing cardiac muscle injury. Lastly, all types of citations other than the original research studies (e.g., review articles, etc.) were also excluded. In total, 31 published animal studies were used from a previous study of the same research group targeting echocardiographic indices [6] and 41 from the current one, as illustrated in the diagram (Fig. 4).

Cardiac Troponins T and I (cTnT and cTnI)

Cardiac Troponin T (cTnT) and cardiac Troponin I (cTnI) are cardiac regulatory proteins that regulate the calcium interaction between actin and myosin. Their forms are coded by specific genes and are mainly found in the myocardium [9]. They are sensitive and specific biomarkers of myocardial

cell injury, acute myocarditis, myocardial infarction, early myocardial damage in non-ST elevation acute coronary syndromes and isoproterenol induced myocardial necrosis [10-11].

Tumor Necrosis Factor- α (TNF α)

Tumor Necrosis Factor- α (TNF- α) is a pro-inflammatory cytokine released by macrophages and monocytes in response to acute inflammatory stimuli. It regulates various signaling events leading to necrosis or apoptosis and therefore plays a role in resistance to infections and cancers [12]. TNF- α is a potential biomarker which is associated with heart failure [13]. Based on research, TNF- α mediates negative inotropic effect in vivo and in vitro, which indicates that the pro-inflammatory cytokine TNF- α is possible to cross talk with the β -adrenergic receptor (β AR) system and underly the negative inotropic phenotype observed in heart failure [14].

Interleukin (IL)-6

Interleukin (IL)-6 is a cytokine with pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory properties [15] with an important role in cardiovascular (CV) disease. Increased levels of cardiac IL-6 and IL-6 receptor mRNA have been linked to deteriorating hemodynamics in advanced heart failure [16]. IL-6 is considered a crucial biomarker for heart failure, as pharmacological agents that target IL-6 signaling, such as tocilizumab, sarilumab, and siltuxumab, have already been developed and used in the treatment of various diseases [17].

Interleukin (IL)-1 β

The Interleukin-1 (IL-1) family is one of the most important cytokine family related to acute and chronic inflammation. Within the IL-1 family, IL-1 β has been proven to be a therapeutic target for many autoinflammatory diseases. Inhibition of IL-1 β leads to prompt and persistent reduction in disease severity [18-19].

Biomarkers of oxidative stress

The research strategy included the following terms either in the title or in the abstracts: [AND (“*rats*” OR “*doxorubicin*” OR “*epirubicin*” OR “*daunorubicin*” OR “*anthracycline*” OR “*oxidative stress*”)]. Overall, a total of 105 published manuscripts concerning animal studies were included in the analysis. Following the exclusion of duplicates, the retrieved studies underwent additional assessment to ascertain their relevance to the subject matter and eligibility. Subsequently, a thorough examination was carried out to extract all relevant data. Only data from rat species was evaluated. Only original research studies were included. Furthermore, articles containing data from irrelevant organs (e.g., brain, kidney) were also excluded, as well as those without anthracyclines being the administered substances. The searches targeted oxidative stress, particularly focusing on malondialdehyde (MDA) as a lipid peroxidation marker in cardiac tissue as well as three

endogenous enzymes-Superoxide dismutase (SOD), Catalase (CAT), Glutathione Peroxidase (GPx)-and the antioxidant glutathione (GSH) in cardiac tissue. Incorporating the supplementary 40 studies from the preceding publication [6], the total number of articles increases to 145, as illustrated in the diagram (Fig. 5).

Malondialdehyde

Malondialdehyde (MDA) is an organic compound which is derived from the peroxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids and arachidonic acid metabolism [20]. It is a highly reactive three-carbon dialdehyde mostly found in the enol form [21]. Lipid peroxidation plays a significant role in the development of various tissue injuries and MDA, as an important secondary product of lipid peroxidation, used as a marker of cell membrane injury. Elevated levels of lipid peroxidation products have been linked to various chronic diseases in both humans and model systems [20].

Glutathione Peroxidase

The glutathione peroxidase (GPX) family includes several isozymes (GPX1-8) located in various subcellular compartments and tissues. Among these, GPX1-4 and GPX6 are selenocysteine-containing proteins [22]. Their active site consists of a conserved tetramer that includes selenocysteine (Sec) residues, as well as glutamine (Gln), tryptophan, and asparagine. In contrast, the other three GPXs have cysteine as an active site [23]. The main function of GPX1-4 is to mitigate oxidative stress by catalyzing the reduction of H₂O₂ or organic hydroperoxides. Moreover, GPX1-4 inhibits inflammation and apoptosis, necroptosis, and pyroptosis [24-26]. They constitute an important mechanism of defense within the heart [27-28]. Besides, GPX2 and GPX3 demonstrate antioxidant effects in intestinal epithelial cells and plasma, respectively, while GPX5-8 lack significant antioxidant capacity [22].

Glutathione

Glutathione is a tripeptide of glutamate, cysteine, and glycine, found in all cells. Glutathione is important in regulating enzyme activity and maintaining the cellular oxidation-reduction (redox) status. GSH is crucial in the cardiovascular system as it functions as a key antioxidant, helping to restore intracellular redox balance and prevent the inactivation of nitric oxide produced by the endothelium. This action is particularly important in preventing abnormal vasomotor responses in individuals with coronary spastic angina [29-30].

Superoxide dismutase

Superoxide dismutases (SODs) are a family of metalloenzymes that play a crucial role in protecting against reactive oxygen species (ROS)-induced damage. They catalyze the conversion of superoxide anion free radicals

(O₂^{•-}) into molecular oxygen and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), thereby reducing the levels of O₂^{•-} that can harm cells [31].

Catalase (CAT)

Hydrogen peroxide is a freely diffusible reactive species that acts as an oxidizing and reducing agent. It is the progenitor of many other ROS. It modifies glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by oxidation of the labile essential thiol groups at the active site of this enzyme [32].

Results

Evaluation of Results to Identify Classification Criteria

We display below the results of the three parallel searches that have been conducted, namely the histopathological data, the inflammation, and the oxidative stress indices.

Histopathological findings

A key factor, examined and reviewed using a weight-of-evidence approach, includes the results of histopathological analysis of heart tissue from animals exposed to known cardiotoxic agents like anthracyclines. Notable morphological alterations in the heart muscle observed during necropsy and/or microscopic examination, which indicate severe heart dysfunction and cell death, are considered significant. Additionally, small changes in heart weight with no evidence of organ dysfunction could also provide useful information. Similar results re-reported in the literature, when other allegedly cardiotoxic substances are studied are also taken into consideration in order to evaluate histopathological findings: in rabbits exposed to anabolic steroids, local fibrosis as well as a mild chronic inflammation of cardiac tissue were observed [7, 33].

An interesting finding reported in pesticide studies is the persistence or accumulation of varying amounts of pesticides in cardiac tissues, indicating that heart muscle cells were directly exposed to these chemicals [17].

The histopathological findings are illustrated in Tables 1,2 & Figure 2. The findings were categorized into observations at the tissue level and the cellular level. When it refers to tissue level the major findings are reversible inflammatory cell infiltration (10.21% of the examined rats), cardiomyocyte disarrangements and disorganizations, and even loss of muscular striations (8.82% of the examined rats), fibrosis, myocardial and interstitial fibrosis (6.06% of the examined rats). Additionally, reversible edema and interstitial edema (4.67% of the examined rats) were observed, collagen deposition which is linked to fibrosis development (3.29%), interstitial hemorrhage, a non-specific finding concerning functional decline (3.11% of the examined rats). Vascular congestion (2.6% of the examined rats) was also found, as myofibrillar loss (1.73% of the examined

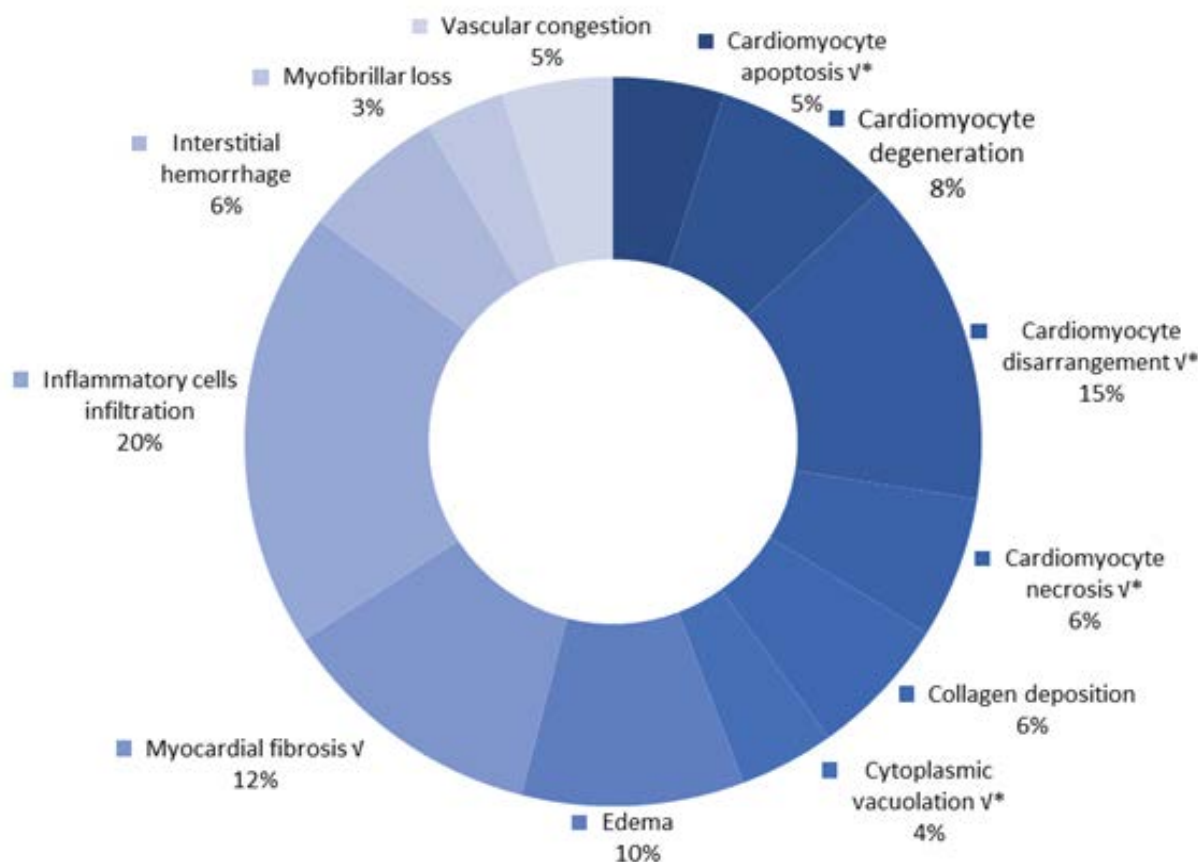


Figure 2: Frequency of occurrence for the main histopathological findings. Symbol "v" represents five histopathological findings of upmost importance. Symbol "*" is used to indicate findings associated with cellular level damage. Findings with no annotation correspond to tissue level findings. Note that some findings are not represented in the current figure, as their occurrence is relatively infrequent. Namely: Tissue level findings a) perivascular fibrosis, b) vacuolization of the connective tissue, c) cardiomyofibrillar disruption and d) vascular congestion Cellular level findings a) cardiomyocyte vacuolization, b) pyknotic nucleus formation, c) cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, d) vacuolar degeneration and e) cardiomyocyte congestion. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

rats), cardiomyofibrillar disruption (1.38% of the examined rats), perivascular fibrosis (1.21% of the examined rats) and vacuolization of the connective tissue, a finding non-indicative of functional decline and depicts cellular debris mainly (1.21% of the examined rats).

The most frequent findings related to the cellular level were cardiomyocyte degeneration (3.98% of the examined rats), cardiomyocyte necrosis (3.29% of the examined rats), cardiomyocyte apoptosis (2.42% of the examined rats) and cytoplasmic vacuolization (1.38% of the examined rats). Pyknotic nucleus formation (1.38% of the examined rats) was also found along with cardiomyocyte hypertrophy (1.21% of the examined rats), vacuolar degeneration (1.21% of the examined rats), and cardiomyocyte congestion (1.04% of the examined rats).

Biomarkers of Inflammation

Inflammatory biomarkers evaluation findings are presented in Figures 6-11. The overall change in cardiac tissue inflammation biomarkers (i.e. cTnT, cTnI, TNF α , IL-6, IL-1 β) was significant in rats with anthracyclines cardiotoxicity compared to their healthy counterparts. More specifically, serum cTnI increased significantly with 47.05% of the values ranging from 50 to 200%. For serum cTnT, the increase was of even greater magnitude ranging from 50 to 400%. Regarding the cardiac tissue TNF α content, a significant increase in cardiotoxicity evaluated rats was also observed with 53.58% of the values increase ranging from 50 to 200%. Serum TNF α content was also significantly augmented in rats with cardiotoxicity ranging from 50 to 600%. Interleukins also increased significantly in rats with cardiotoxicity (increases in cardiac tissues ranging from 50 to 500% regarding IL-6 and 50 to 200% for IL-1 β , respectively).

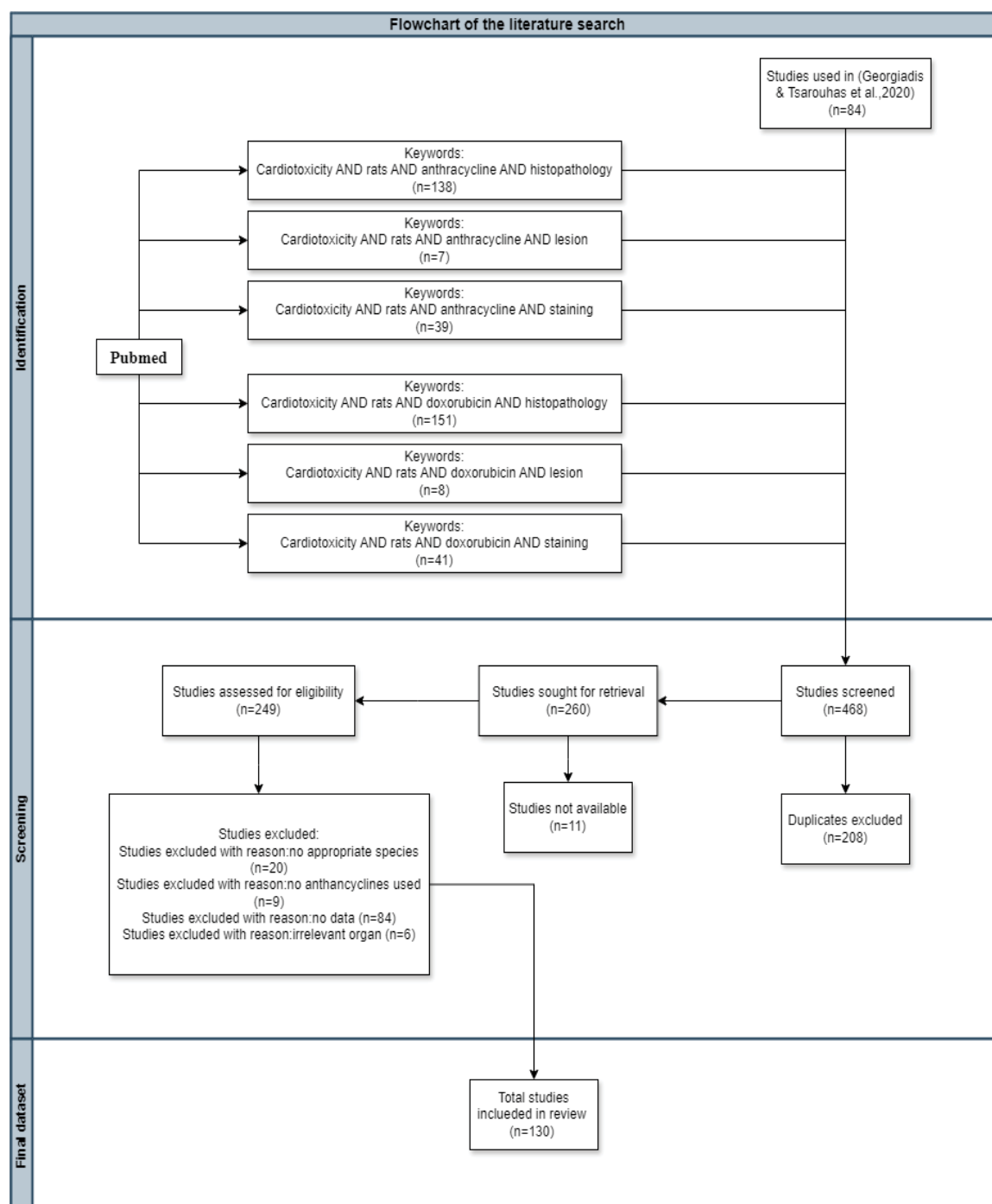


Figure 3: Prismaflow chart (literature search) about histopathological data for the present study design.

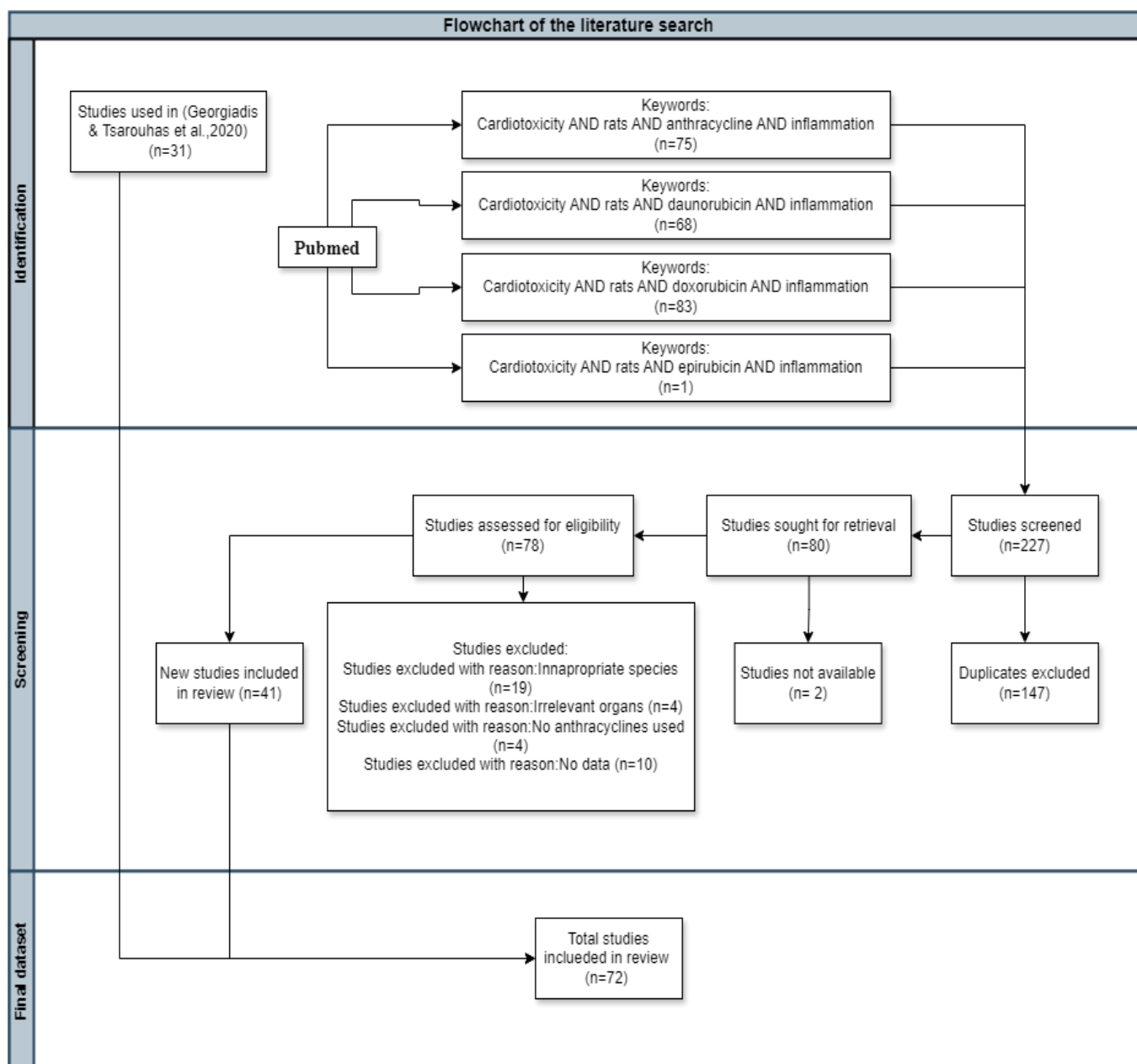


Figure 4: Prisma flow chart (literature search) about inflammation indices for the present study design.

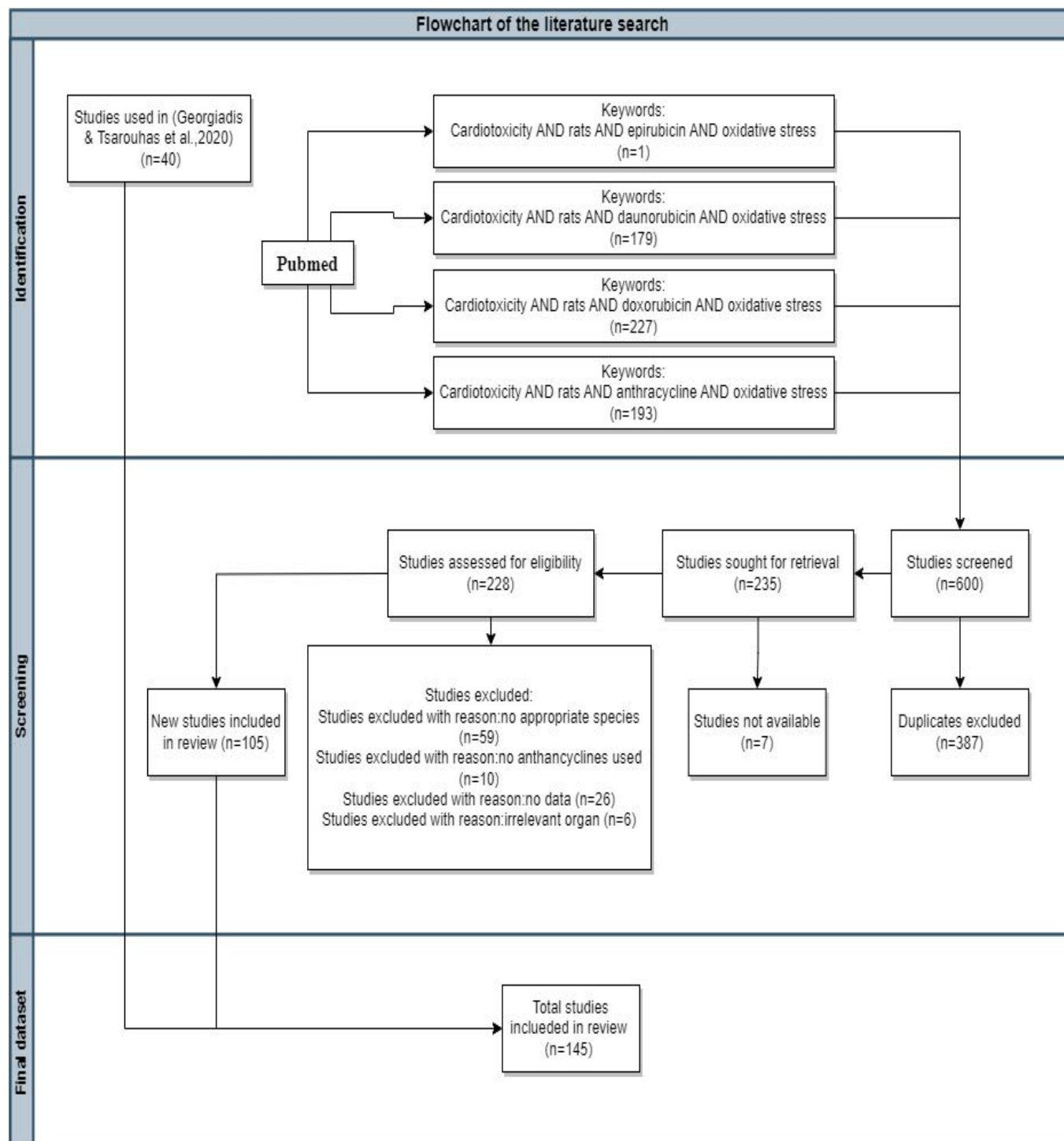


Figure 5: Prisma flow chart (literature search) about oxidative stress indices for the present study design.

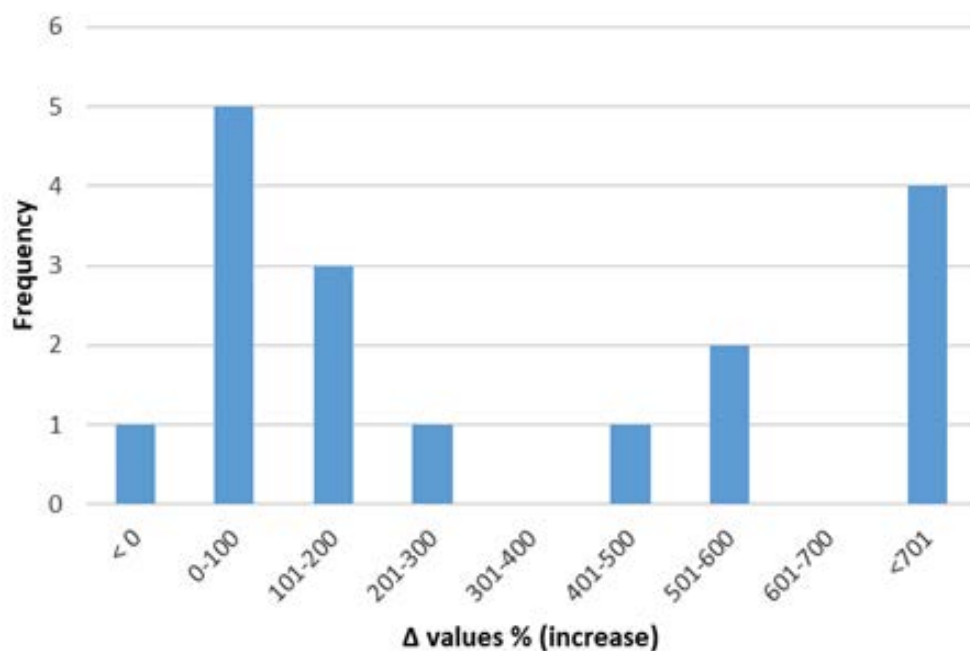


Figure 6: Percentage increase in serum cTnT in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

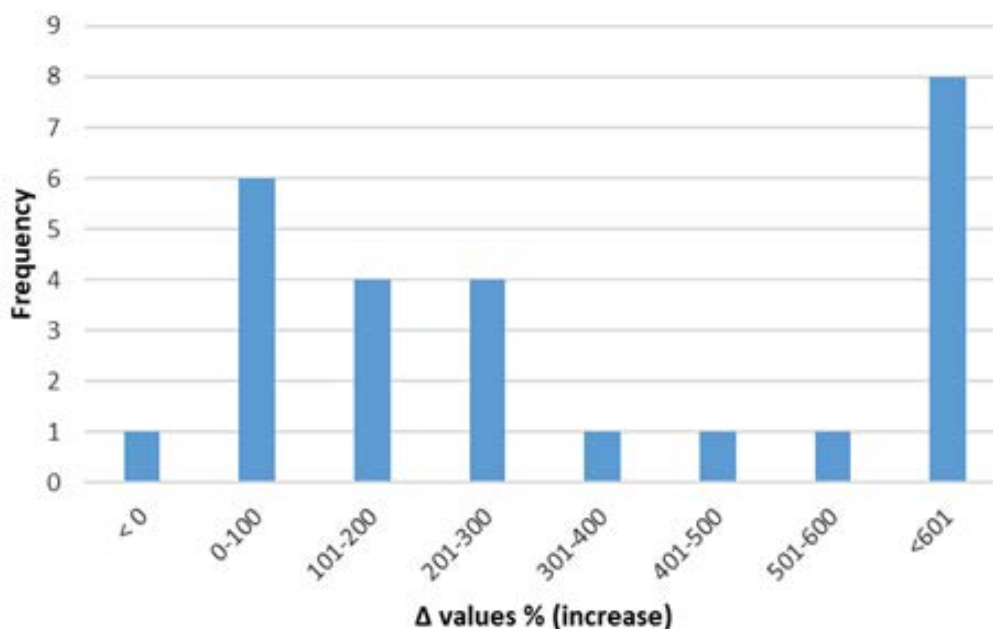


Figure 7: Percentage increase in serum cTnI in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

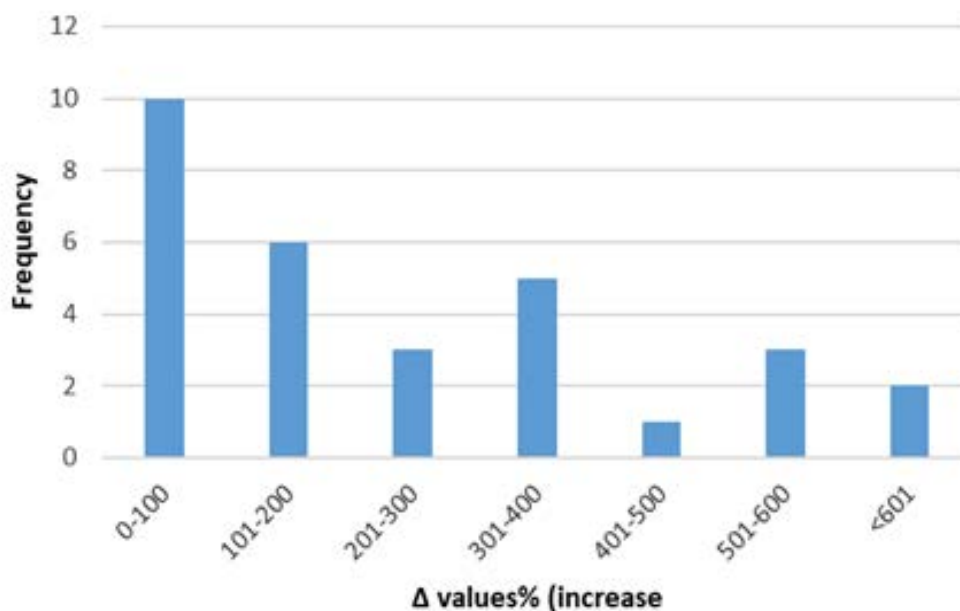


Figure 8: Percentage increase in cardiac tissue TNF- α in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. The final bar (<601) represents two percentage change ($\Delta\%$) values of TNF- α at 1250 and 1412. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

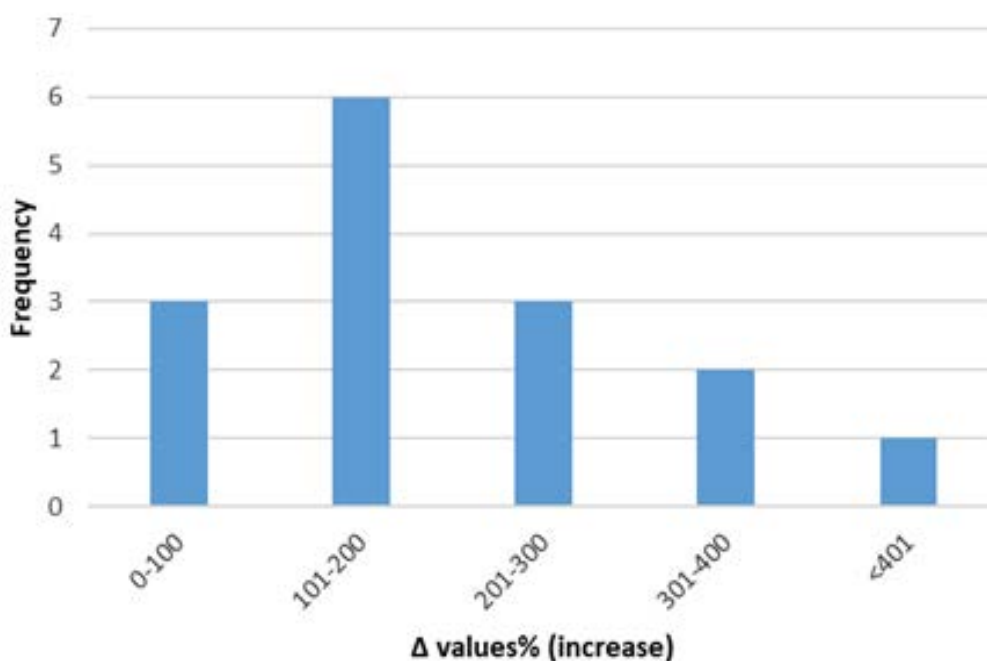


Figure 9: Percentage increase in serum TNF- α in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. The final bar (<401) represents one percentage change ($\Delta\%$) values of TNF- α at 2700. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

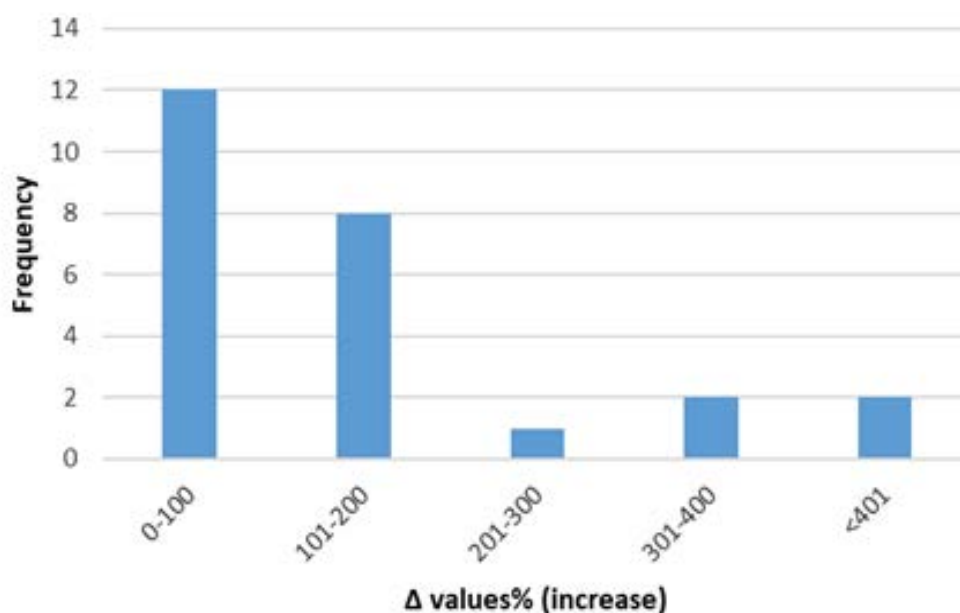


Figure 10: Percentage increase in cardiac tissue IL-6 in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. The final bar (<401) represents two percentage change ($\Delta\%$) values of IL-6 at 700 and 3746. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

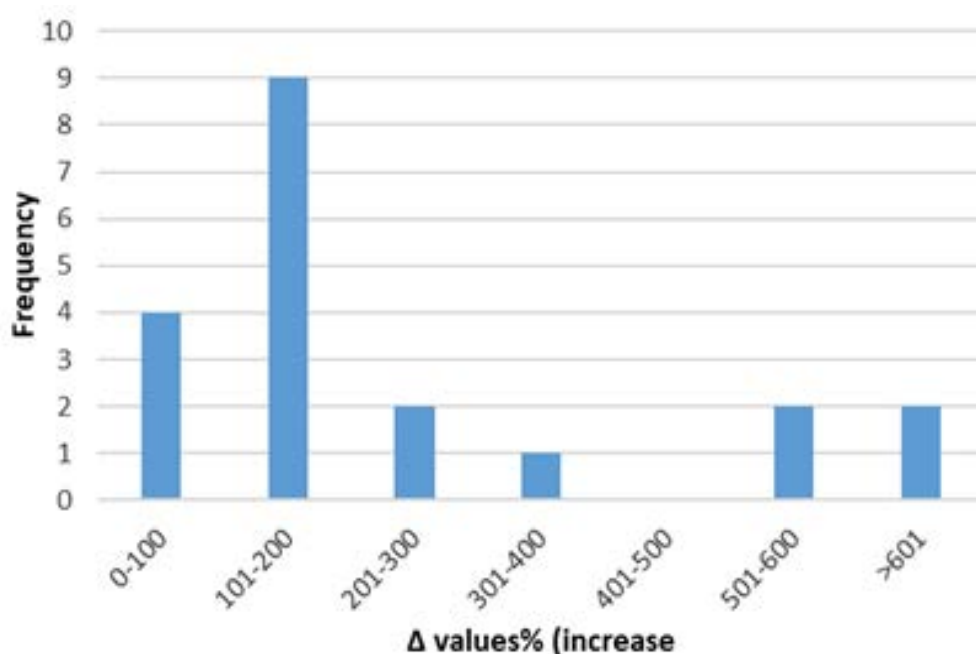


Figure 11: Percentage increase in cardiac tissue IL-1 β in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. $\% \Delta$ values = $[(\text{values of rats exposed to anthracyclines}) - (\text{values of control rats})] / (\text{values of control rats}) \times 100$. $\% \Delta$ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications with reported data. The final bar (>601) represents two percentage change ($\Delta\%$) values of IL-1 β at 720 and 1043. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

Biomarkers of oxidative stress

Exposure to anthracyclines suppressed CAT, SOD, GSH and GSH-Px indices and increased MDA values in the 145 studies reviewed in the present report.

In figures 12-17, the overall change in biomarkers of oxidative stress (i.e. GSH, GSH-Px, CAT, SOD, and MDA) in cardiac tissue of rats with anthracyclines cardiotoxicity compared to their healthy counterpart are presented. More specifically, MDA increases ranged mainly from 20 to 200%. For GSH-Px, decreases ranged from 10 to 70%, and for GSH decreases ranged from 20 to 80%. Furthermore, decreases from 30 to 80% were observed for SOD and from 20 to 70% for CAT, respectively.

Especially for MDA (figure 17), there is a clear separation of values when we compared MDA values found in anthracycline-exposed rats' cardiac tissues and the mean values of healthy rats.

There is a clear dependence of all the oxidative stress markers monitored in rats' cardiac tissue, mentioned above, upon anthracycline exposure. A pathophysiological link between anthracycline exposure and cardiac dysfunction is implied, with oxidative stress being involved. It is very encouraging that there is a concurrent deviation from normal values of the oxidative stress markers when the rats develop cardiotoxicity, a finding that can provide supportive lines of evidence in a weight-of-evidence approach for assessing cardiotoxicity in a regulatory framework.

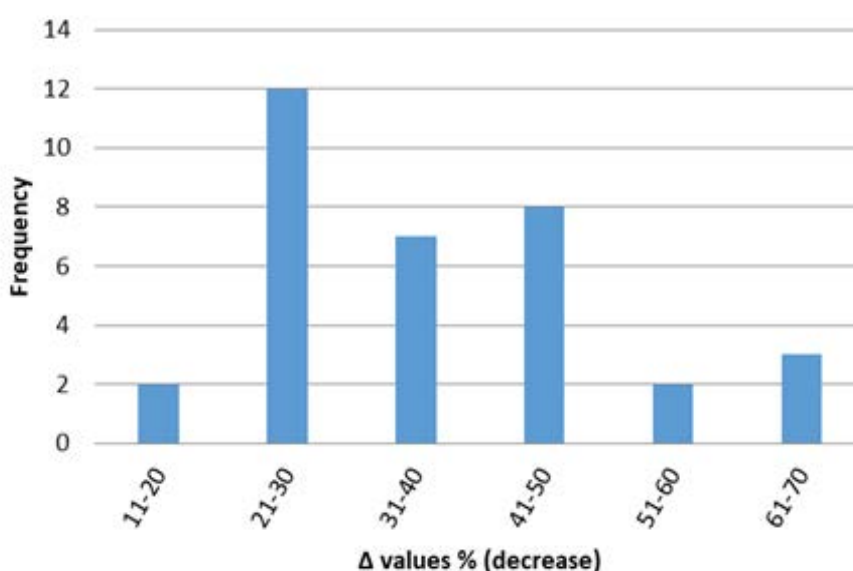
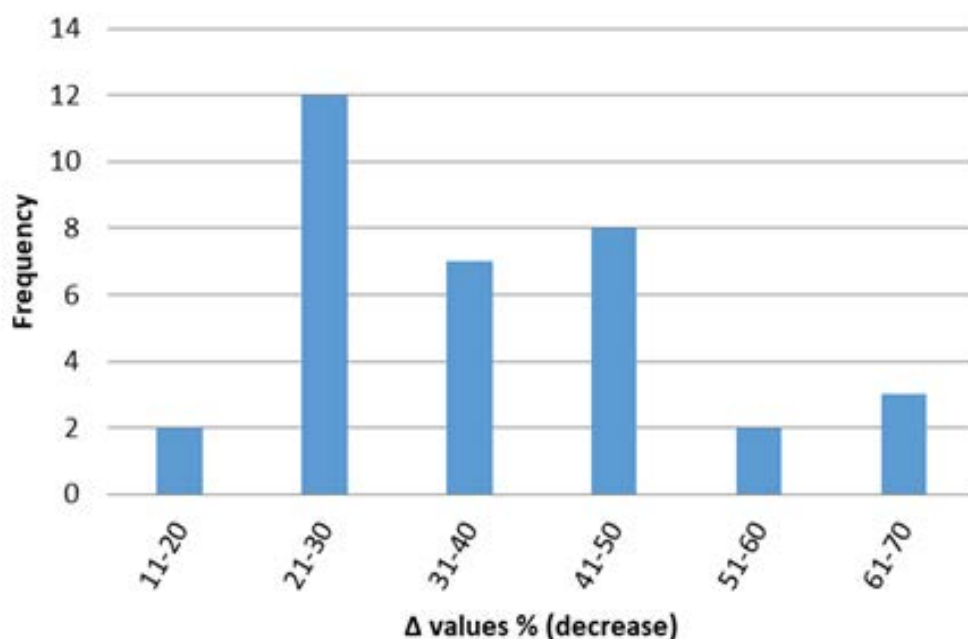


Figure 12: Percentage decrease in cardiac tissue GSH (%Δ values [(values of rats exposed to anthracyclines) - (values of control rats)/(values of control rats)] x 100) in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. %Δ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

Footnotes

- Refer to Figure 3 for a clearer understanding of the data retrieval process.
- Moreover, LVEDD and LVESD decreased after DOX challenge. Echocardiographic examination demonstrated that DOX treatment markedly reduced CO and the E/A ratio, an index used to reflect diastolic function.
- The doxorubicin control group exhibited significant prolongation of QT ($p = 0.003$), QTc ($p = 0.026$), and PR ($p = 0.044$) interval and reduction in QRS complex amplitude ($p = 0.001$) compared to normal control rats.
- We observed the echocardiography of rats and found that when the cumulative dose of DOX reached 15 mg/kg, compared with the control group, the DOX group had significantly reduced heart rate, LVEF, LVFS, SV and CO, and DXK had a significant improvement effect on the above indicators.
- ECG charts from DOX control rats confirmed a significant broadening of the T waves. In some of the examined ECG charts, the P waves were almost absent. Moreover, the baseline was not straight and spiked. A significant ST segment elevation was evident, QT and PR intervals, amplitude of both QRS complex and T wave, and T wave duration significantly increased by approximately 9.8-, 1.4-, 1.2-, 1.5-, 2.5-, and 2.1-fold, respectively, compared with the control (Fig. 2B-E). Heart rate significantly decreased by 20 % in the DOX control compared with the CTRL.



Figure_13. Percentage decrease in cardiac tissue GSH-Px (% Δ values [(values of rats exposed to anthracyclines) - (values of control rats)/ (values of control rats)] x 100) in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. % Δ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

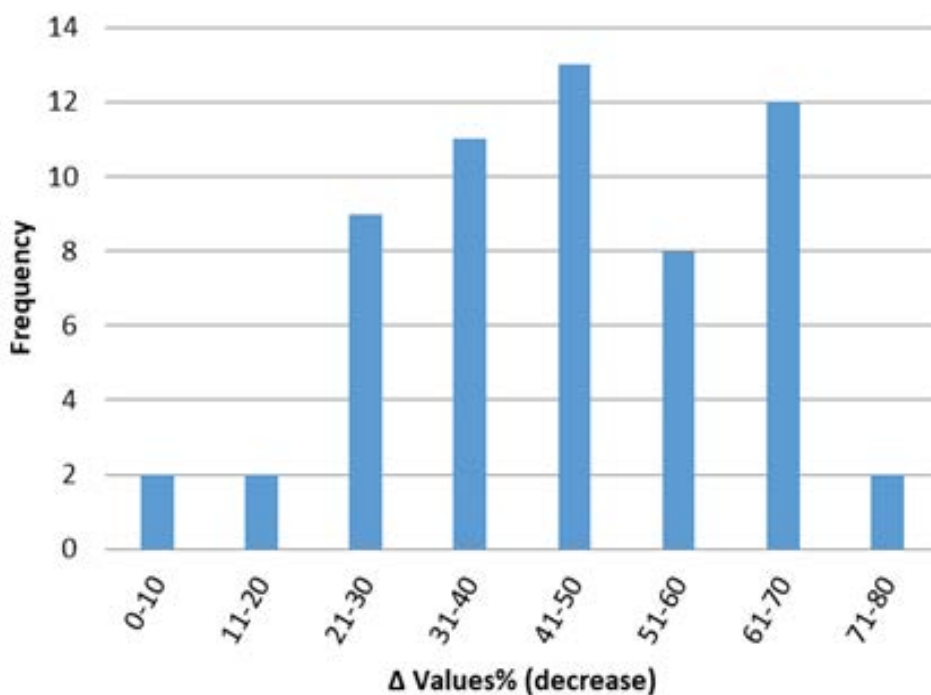


Figure 14: Percentage decrease in cardiac tissue CAT (% Δ values [(values of rats exposed to anthracyclines) - (values of control rats)/ (values of control rats)] x 100) in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. % Δ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

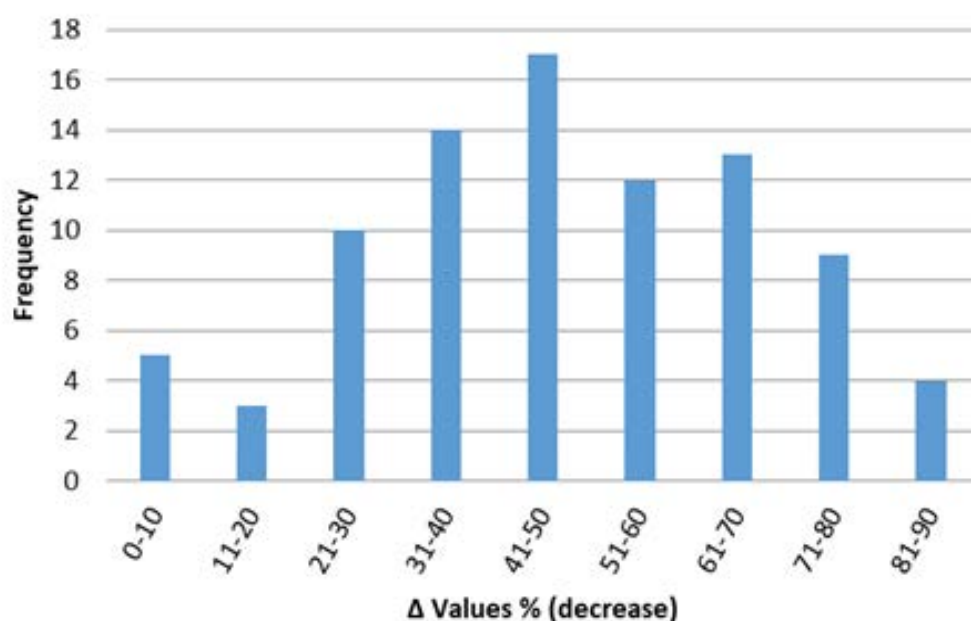


Figure 15: Percentage decrease in cardiac tissue SOD (%Δ values [(values of rats exposed to anthracyclines) - (values of control rats) / (values of control rats)] x 100) in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. %Δ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

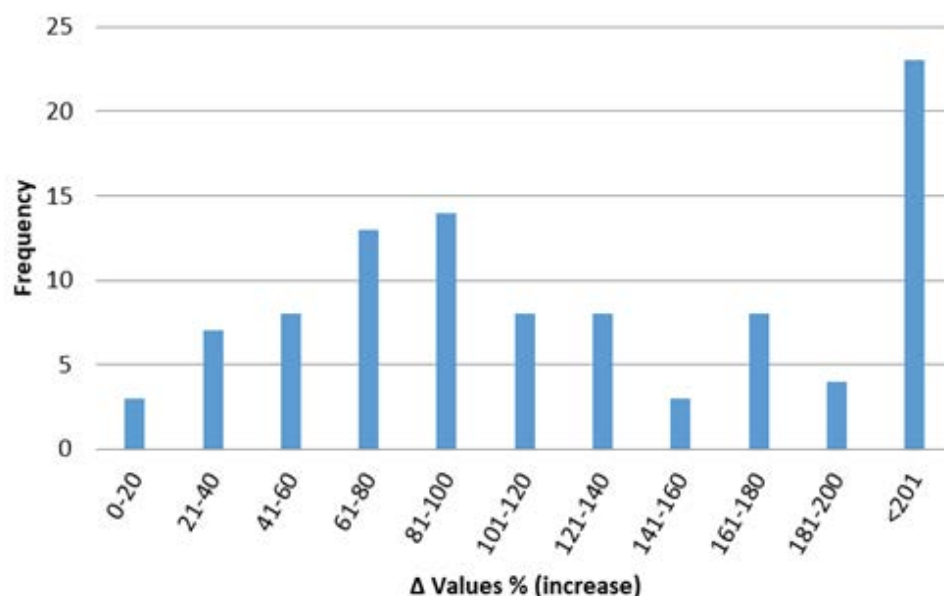


Figure 16: Percentage increase in cardiac tissue MDA in rats exposed to anthracyclines compared to control animals, as reported in the reviewed studies. %Δ values = {(values of rats exposed to anthracyclines) - (values of control rats)} / (values of control rats) x 100. The maximum increase observed reaches 540%. %Δ values were calculated in order to overcome the diversity of measuring units used in the literature. Frequency represents number of publications with reported data.

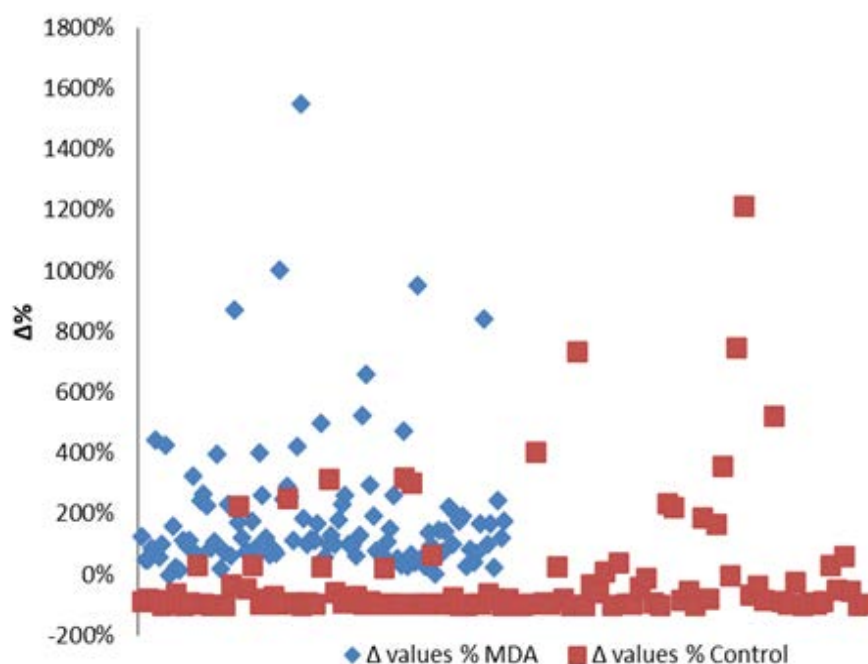


Figure 17: Difference between the $\Delta\%$ observed between the control and MDA $\Delta\%$ values of the reviewed studies (blue points) compared to the $\Delta\%$ values of the control values and the mean control of all the reviewed studies (red values). Frequency represents the number of publications included in the present study with relevant reported data.

Table1: Frequency of occurrence of the five most common histopathological findings (cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and cardiomyocyte apoptosis) in correlation with changes in biochemical markers monitored in the publications included in the present study.

Histopathological Findings	Frequency						
	No biochemical monitored (%)	Oxidative stress (%)			Inflammation (%)		
		MDA (Increase)	SOD (Decrease)	CAT (Decrease)	IL-1 β (Increase)	TNF- α (Increase)	cTnl (Increase)
Cardiomyocyte Necrosis (56.2%)	23.3	73.2	53.6	35.7	21.4	28.6	32.1
Cardiomyocyte Disarrangement (37.7%)	28.6	74.3	60	37.1	11.4	22.9	22.9
Myocardial Fibrosis (36.9%)	29.2	58.8	47.1	38.2	20.6	20.6	26.5
Cytoplasmic Vacuolation (30.0%)	33.3	75.9	58.6	24.1	24.1	31	27.6
Cardiomyocyte Apoptosis (18.5%)	29.2	88.2	47.1	17.6	17.6	23.5	29.4

% of publications in which a finding is observed from a total of 130 publications included in the present study

% of studies where no concurrent biochemical effect is reported based on the frequency of the occurrence of the histopathological effect.

There are changes in additional biochemical markers concurrent to histopathological effects at lower frequencies and are not included in the present Table.

Table 2: Summary of all relevant information on each animal study design along with results data extracted from the publications screened in the present study, including concurrent to histology pathophysiological findings, such as biochemical markers and echocardiography data alterations. Less common observations are listed as footnotes. The cumulative dose for each animal study, which is of paramount clinical importance to humans, has not been calculate, since it was not often provided by the study authors.

Publication ^a	No. Rats/ Sex/Species Used	Anthracycline total dose / Duration	Summary of findings	Most Important Histopathological Effects	Concurrent Findings	Echocardiography	
						Ejection fraction EF%	Fraction shortening FS%
Patintinganetal (2023)	24/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (reduced cardiac muscle cell size, excessive inflammatory cell infiltration, myocardial necrosis, bleeding, extensive myocarditis)	Cardiomyocyte Necrosis, Cardiomyocyte Apoptosis, Cytoplasmic Vacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA (32%) and GPx (39.6%) was increased	not available	not available
Pereiraetal (2023)	39/male/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 7.5 mg/kg / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial lesions, Type III collagen deposition, cardiac mast cells increased)	Myocardial Fibrosis	Not available	Decrease 1.4%	Decrease 5.09%
Samiretal (2023)	60/male/Swiss albinorats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / One week	Altered cardiac morphology (perivascular inflammatory cell infiltration with edema surrounding the dilated and congested blood vessels, focal hemorrhages, inflammatory cell infiltration within the myocardial bundles)	Cardiomyocyte Necrosis, Cardiomyocyte Disarrangement	Oxidative stress: CAT (31.1%) and SOD (69.13%) was decreased	Not available	Not available
Wang, Y. et al (2023) ^b	32/male/wild-type Sprague-Dawley rats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 3 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac fibrosis, collagen deposition on cardiomyocytes, swollen mitochondrial cristae and vacuolization of mitochondria)	Myocardial Fibrosis, Cardiomyocyte Necrosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA (40.26%) was increased, SOD(49.3%) was decreased Inflammation: cTnI was increased (118.8%)	Not available	Not available
Satyametal (2023) ^c	30/female/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 20 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (significant cardiomyocyte degeneration, intermuscular edema, mild inflammatory cell infiltration, myofibrillar loss)	Cardiomyocyte Necrosis, Cardiomyocyte Disarrangement	not available	Not available	Not available

Wang, T. et al (2023) ^d	Rats	Doxorubicin cumulative dose: 15 mg/kg / no data	Altered cardiac morphology (inflammatory cell infiltration, vacuoles, watery lesions in cardiac cells, excessive autophagy in cardiomyocytes)	Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Cardiomyocyte necrosis	not available	Decrease 63.64%	Decrease 23.32%
Prathumsapet al (2022)	40/male/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg/day, ip / On 4th, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th day	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocyte apoptosis, cardiomyocyte autophagy and mitophagy [grade 3], cardiac inflammation [grade 3], cardiomyocyte pyroptosis [grade 3], massively swollen mitochondria)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte apoptosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (118.4%) Inflammation: cTnl was increased (66.20%) Cardiac NTproBNP was increased (112.5%)	Decrease 29.40%	Decrease 20%
Amin et al (2023) ^e	24/male/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin cumulative dose: 21 mg/kg, administered at (3.5 mg/kg I.P.) / Twice per week for 3 weeks	Altered cardiac characteristics (elevation in heart weight and function)	Myocardial fibrosis Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: GSH (43.46%) and SOD (61.8%) was decreased. MDA was increased (174.98%) Inflammation: IL 1β (541.14%) was increased.	Not available	Not available
Majhiet al (2022)	40/male/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, i.p. cumulative dose: 15 mg/kg / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac necrosis with edema, leukocyte infiltration, intramuscular haemorrhage)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis	Oxidative stress: SOD (62.06%), CAT (64.95%), GSH (70.02%) were all decreased but MDA (72.76%) was increased. Inflammation: Troponin T (527.58%) was increased.	Not available	Not available
Furcea et al (2022)	(no data)	Doxorubicin dosage: no data / no data	Altered cardiac morphology (foci of necrosis, dissolution of intracytoplasmic myofibrils, cardiomyocytes with intracytoplasmic vacuolization)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Cardiac NT proBNP (46.86%) was decreased.	Not available	Not available available

Naderietal (2023)	42/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (extensive vacuolization, cardiomyocytes degeneration)	Cardiomyocytenecrosis, Cytoplasmicvacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA (700%) was increased. CAT (57.14%) & SOD (54.60%) were decreased Inflammation: TNF α (49.9%) and IL 1 β (160.15%) were increased	notavailable	notavailable
Alyasiryetal (2022)	28/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cellular swelling, perinuclear vacuolation, cytoplasm vacuolization)	Cytoplasmicvacuolation, Cardiomyocytenecrosis	Oxidative stress: increased MDA (97.37%) Inflammation: increased TNF α (65.85%) and IL 6 (77.49%)	notavailable	notavailable
Refaieetat (2022)	50/male/ Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (extensive necrosis, loss of muscular striations with vascular congestion)	Cardiomyocytenecrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (202%) and GSH (74.5%) were decreased Inflammation: Troponin I (639%) was increased	notavailable	notavailable
Adiyamanetal (2022)	28/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 10 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (severe disarrangement and hypertrophy of cardiomyocytes)	Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Myocardial fibrosis, Cardiomyocyte necrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (52.5%) Inflammation: Troponin (2792%) increased. Cardiac NT proBNP (85.02%)	notavailable	notavailable
Shekari et al (2022) ¹⁹	32/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial hypertrophy, mononuclear inflammation, myofibrillar loss, perinuclear and cytoplasmic vacuolization)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte apoptosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: GSH (15.38%) and SOD(18.4%) were decreased but MDA (31.48%) was increased	notavailable	notavailable

Zhouetal (2022)	60/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (disorganised myocardium [broken,wavy, loose], cell morphology blurred, fibrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration, collagen accumulation, myoplasmic dissolution, dissarrangement of myofibres)	Myocardial fibrosis ,Cardiomyocyte disarrangement ,Cardiomyocyte necrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA (262.48%) was increased and SOD (87.99%) was decreased	notavailable	notavailable
Sandamalieta (2022)	70/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 18 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (severe necrosis in peripheral and subendocardium of the myocardium [grade 4], congestion of blood vessels, intracellular vacuoles, interstitial oedema, haemorrhages, inflammatory infiltrations, and wavy myocardial fibers)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation.	Oxidative stress: MDA (76.31%) was increased but SOD (44.99%),CAT (22.71%),GSH (51.42%) GPX (26.08%) were decreased Inflammation: cTnl (14514%) was significantly increased Cardiac NT proBNP (792.81%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Wang, S. et al (2022) ^h	48/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for: 1st group: 4 weeks,2nd group: 6 weeks, 3rd group 8 weeks, 4th group: 10 weeks respectively	1st, 2nd, and 3rd group: early myocardial fibrosis, 4th group: vacuolarly degenerated cardiomyocytes, myocardial disarrangement, myocardial cell necrosis, eosinophilic cardiomyocyte necrosis, disarrayed myocardial structure	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Myocardial fibrosis.	Not available	Decrease 18.52%	Not available
Eisvandetal (2022) ⁱ	42/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 12 days	Altered cardiac morphology (collagen deposition, degeneration of myocardial fibers, myocardiocytes cytoplasmic vacuolization)	Myocardial fibrosis, Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA (93.3%) was increased and GSH (70.37%) was decreased		
Chenetal (2022)	18/male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg, ip / Once every 3 days (5 total)	Altered cardiac morphology (disarrangement of cardiomyocytes, vacuolation with damaged organelle)	Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Cardiomyocyte apoptosis.	Not available	Not available	Not available

Fouadetal (2021)	24/male/ Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 20 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphol- ogy (congestion of myo- cardial blood vessels, focal Zenker's necrosis of cardiac myocytes, intermyocardialedema, inflammatory cells infil- tration)	Cardiomyocytenecrosis, Cardiomyocytedisarrangement.	Oxidative stress: MDA (57.32%) was increased and CAT (44.7%) was decreased Inflammation: cTnI (95.18%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Tanetal (2021)	90/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (inflammation, desarcomerization, interstitial fibrosis[moderate to severe]inflammation, tissue disorganization)	Myocardial fibrosis, Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement.	Cardiac BNP (62.47%) and NT proBNP (67.74%) were increased	Decrease 55.98%	Decrease 74.27%
Wan, Y. etal (2021)	48/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (muscle fibre disarrangement, myofilament loss and enlargement, aberrantly shaped mitochondria, disarrayed myocardial structure, obvious cardiomyocyte vacuolization, increased extracellular fibrosis)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Myocardial fibrosis	Inflammation: TNF α (150%) and IL 1 β (414.26%) were increased	Decrease 23%	
Wan, Y. etal (2023)	45/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg, ip / Four injection per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial edema, cardiac strain, cardiomyocytes fibrosis, cell apoptosis, cardiomyocyte vacuolization and myofibril loss)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte apoptosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Myocardial fibrosis.	Oxidative stress: SOD (76.92%) and GSH (75%) were decreased but MDA (450.98%) was increased Inflammation: IL 1 β (210%) and TNF α (158.33%) were increased	Decrease 17.11%	
Abdelattyetal (2021)	56/male/Albinorats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / On 1st, 4th, 8th, 15th and 30th day of 90 days	Altered cardiac morphology (sarcoplasmic vacuolation,coagulative necrosis of cardiac myocytes, perivascular and subendocardial coagulative necrosis, perivascular edema, dilatation of mitochondrial cristae, severe degree of myolysis, fibrosis, atrophy)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Myocardial fibrosis	Oxidative stress: CAT (21.5%), SOD (22.9%), GPx (33.12%) was decreased Inflammation: cTnT (58.5%) was increased	Not available	Not available

Refaieetal (2021) ⁱ	40/male/ Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (degenerated wavy muscle fibers with absent striations, fibers with pyknotic nuclei or absent nuclei, congested dilated blood capillaries, blood extravasation with inflammatory cell infiltration, hemosiderin pigment between fibers)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Cytoplasmic vacuolation.	Oxidative stress: MDA (192.5%) was increased but GSH (64.6%) was decreased		
Shietal (2021)	40/male/ SpragueDawleyrats/	Pirarubicin 3 mg/ kg, iv / Once per week for 8 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocyte disarrangement, enlarged intercellular space, focal vacuolization, steatosis)	Cardiomyocytedisarrangement Cytoplasmicvacuolation	Oxidative stress: SOD (28.5%) was decreased but MDA (262.5%) was increased Inflammation: cTnT (45.45%) was increased Cardiac BNP (36.8%) was increased	Decrease 17.08%	Decrease 35.48%
Wang, C. et al (2021) ^k	40/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 14 days	Altered cardiac morphology (disordered myocardial fiber, severely dissolved myofibrils, inflammatory cells, fibrosis, collagen deposition around small blood vessel)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, Cardiomyocyte apoptosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, Myocardial fibrosis	Not available	Decrease 15.33%	Decrease 25%
Younisetal (2021) ^j	30/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, ip, cumulative dose: 15 mg/kg / One injection every 5 days(3 total)	Altered cardiac morphology (severe cardiomyocyte injury with extensive cytoplasmic vacuolization, significant cardiomyocyte injury with extensive cytoplasmic vacuolization and myofibrillar degeneration)	CardiomyocytenecrosisCytopla smicvacuolation	Oxidative stress: SOD (81.13%) and GSH (80.8%) were decreased Inflammation: TNF a (350%) and IL 1β (732.9%) were increased	Not available	Not available
Rahmanifardetal (2021) ^m	42/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / One injection every 3 days	Altered cardiac morphology (myocytes, microvessels and the number of cardiomyocyte nuclei reduced)	CardiomyocytenecrosisMyocar dialfibrosis.	Oxidative stress: MDA (150%) was increased and CAT (45%) was decreased		

Alhazzanietal (2021)	24/Sprague–Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Once every other day for 14 days.	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocyte vacuolar degeneration, perivascular fibrosis,severe fibrotic scarring, interstitial tissues, mild chronic inflammation with perivascular fibrosis)	Cytoplasmic vacuolation, Myocardial fibrosis, Cardiomyocyte necrosis.	Not available	Not available	Not available
Laietal (2022)	24/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, ip / Two weekly injections	Altered cardiac morphology (myocytes disarrangement, myofibrillar degeneration, extensive inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiomyocyte interstitial fibrosis and perivascular fibrosis, cardiac fibrosis)	Cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and myocardial fibrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA (114.6%) was increased but CAT (63.66%) and SOD (65.38%) were decreased	Decrease 51.4 %	Decrease 35.49 %
Park et al (2021) ^{n,o}	40/male/Sprague–Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 1 mg/kg, iv, Groups(1-5): cumulative dose: 4, 8, 12, 16, 24 mg/kg, respectively / Twice per week for 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 weeks respectively	Altered cardiac morphology (vacuolar changes [mild to moderate], interstitial fibrosis [mild, severe 5th group], inflammation[mild to severe], and edema[mild])	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and myocardial fibrosis	Not available	Decrease 9.80%	
Wueta (2021) ^p	48/male/specific pathogen-free Sprague-Dawley rats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg, iv / On days 9, 16, 23 and 30	Altered cardiac morphology (disordered myocardial fiber arrangement, localized inflammatory infiltration in myocardial tissue, vacuolar degeneration)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and cytoplasmic vacuolation.	Not available	Decrease 17.66%	Decrease 14.81%
Barışetal (2021)	38/male/Sprague–Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin Cumulative dose: 18 mg/kg, ip / On days 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14	Altered cardiac morphology (infiltrative cell quantification, cardiomyocyte degeneration with karyorrhexis, pyknosis, karyolysis, myofibril loss , edema)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and myocardial fibrosis.	Oxidative stress: SOD (20.9%) was decreased Cardiac BNP (23.67%) was increased	Decrease 53.00%	Decrease 72.87%

Solimanetal (2021)	28/male/Swiss albinorats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg, ip / Daily for 1 week	Altered cardiac morphology (scanty collagen deposition in between the cardiomyocytes, focal disruption of myofibers, karyolytic or pyknotic nuclei, areas of focal sarcoplasmic vacuolation, cardiomyocytes with irregularly indented nuclei, abnormally condensed chromatin, focal lysis of myofibrils, loss of normal alignment of sarcomeres, vacuolation of mitochondria with irregular cristae, focal sarcoplasmic reticulum vacuolation)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte apoptosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and myocardial fibrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA (81.7%) was increased but GSH (56.6%) was decreased Inflammation: cTnI (102.4%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Zhang, X. etal (2021)	40/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, iv / Once per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (irregular morphology, disarrangement, increased inflammatory cell infiltration, mitochondria swelled, cristae breakage)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and cytoplasmic vacuolation.	Not available	Decrease 30.43%	Decrease 35.71%
Hekmatetal (2021) ^a	35/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 3.75 mg/kg, ip, cumulative dose: 15 mg/kg / On days 14, 21, 28, and 35	Altered cardiac morphology (vascular congestion [grade 4], infiltration of inflammatory cells [grade 3], disrupted cardiac muscle architecture [grade 3], loss of muscular striations, hydropic degeneration, focal apoptosis, coagulative necrosis)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte apoptosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and cytoplasmic vacuolation.	Oxidative stress: MDA (166.2%) was increased but SOD (45.4%) was decreased Inflammation: cTnI (164.10%), IL 1 β (55.56%), and TNF α (200%) were increased	Not available	Not available
Ahmed, A. Z et al (2021) ^r	24/female/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 25 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (intermuscular edema, myofibrillar loss, infiltration with inflammatory cells, vacuolization and cardiomyocytes degeneration)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: MDA (66.55%) was increased but GSH (36.61%) was decreased	Not available	Not available

Eidetal (2021)	24/male/Wistarrats	Andriamycin 10 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (capillary dilation and congestion, atrophy and degeneration of cardiac fibers, interfibrillar spaces increased)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, and myocardial fibrosis.	Oxidative stress: MDA (1100.68%) was increased. GSH (52.38%), SOD (80.77%), GPx (70.37%) and CAT (67.56%) were decreased Inflammation: IL 1 β (93.2%) and TNF α (376.24%) were increased	Not available	Not available
da Cunha Menezes Souza et al (2021)	140/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 4mg/kg, ip / 1st group: single dose, 2nd group: one dose per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocyte vacuolization, inflammation, necrosis and atrophy, increased volume and retraction of nuclei)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and cardiomyocyte apoptosis	Not available	Not available	Not available
Sadeketal (2021)	32/male/Albinorats	Doxorubicin 10mg/kg, ip / On days 3, 9, 15, and 21 for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (degeneration of the myocardial tissue, myofibrillar loss, eosinophilia of myofibers)	cardiomyocyte necrosis and cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Oxidative stress: MDA (200%) was increased. GSH (50%), CAT (57.2%) and SOD (40.04%) were decreased Inflammation: IL-6 (149.98%),TNF- α (199.87%) and Troponin I (200%) were increased	Not available	Not available
Durdagietal (2021) ^a	32/male/WistarAlbinorats	Doxorubicin 45 mg/kg, iv / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (myofibrillary disorganization, interstitial edema, interstitial hemorrhage, nuclear degeneration, infiltration, fibrosis)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and myocardial fibrosis. Here's the categorization:	Oxidative stress: SOD (37.9%),CAT (70.6%), GPx (29.5%) were decreased but MDA (99.98%) was increased. Inflammation: IL 1 α (172.7%),IL 6 (136.2%) and TNF α (36.4%) wereincreased	Not available	Not available

Samraetal (2021) ⁱ	48/male/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 3.5 mg/kg, ip / Twice per week for 21 days	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocytes disarrangement & degeneration, fibrotic lesions & perivascular fibrosis)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte apoptosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation, and myocardial fibrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA (103.7%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Salehetal (2020) ^u	40/female/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 200 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (expanded vacuolization of cardiomyocyte sarcoplasm associated with loss of striations and individual necrosis)	Cardiomyocytes necrosis,Cardiomyocytedisarangement,Cytoplasmic Vacuolation	Oxidative stress: cardiac MDA was increased (108.5%) cardiac GSH was decreased (36.9%)	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: IL 6 was significantly increased (679.8%)		
					Cardiac ANP was increased (199.9%)		
Olorundareetal (2020)	49/male/WistarAlbinorats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (mildly congested cardiomyocytes and antemortem coronary microthrombi)	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Hungetal (2020)	male/Wistarrats	Andriamycin 3 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (moderate collagen accumulation, altered heart foci, apoptosis of cardiomyocytes)	CardiomyocyteapoptosisMyocardialFibrosis	Not available	Not available	Not available
Ahmed, L. A. et al (2021) ^v	48/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (necrosis with mononuclear inflammatory cells, nuclear pyknosis, intercellular edema, congested blood vessels, cardiac lesion [grade 3])	cardiomyocyteneclerosis	Inflammation: Increase of IL 1 β (933.3%) .IL 6 (290%). cTnT (493.4%) and TNF α tissue (341.9%)	Not available	Not available
					Oxidative stress: CAT was increased (153.5%)		

Karabulutetal (2020)	40/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (disorganized in myocardial fiber, expansion in cells, necrosis)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, necrosis, and possibly myocardial fibrosis (depending on the nature of the cell expansion)	Doxorubicin increases cardiac ANP and NT-proBNP release: ANP (42.5%) and NT proBNP (95.7%)	Not available	Not available
Radeva-llievaetal (2020)	36/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 10 mg/kg, ip / Two injections on 1st day and 3rd day	Altered cardiac morphology (disrupted myofibril architecture, myocyte disorganization, cytoplasmic fading, and pyknotic nucleus formation, collagen fibers)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, necrosis, and myocardial fibrosis.	authors have no explanation for why cardiac troponin I (cTnI) levels were not elevated. as its values were <0.20 in the control and MXB pretreatment groups as well as in the doxorubicin group.	Not available	Not available
Birarietal (2020)*	42/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 6 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 10 days	Altered cardiac morphology (cellular damage, inflammation, architecture perturbation)	cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Oxidative stress: CAT (60%), GSH (54.1%) and SOD (64.7%) were significantly decreased while MDA was increased (1003.5%) Inflammation: TNF α tissue: increase with DOX admin (40.9%), IL 6: Significant increase (176%) IL 1 β : Significant increase (156.8%).	Not available	Not available
Xuetal (2020)*	48/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / One injection per week: 1st group: 1 week, 2nd group: 2 weeks, 3rd group: 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology 1st group: irregularly arranged fibers, irregular and rough endothelium, collagen around vessels, 2nd group: irregular fibers, gaps, rougher endothelium, collagen around vessels, 3rd group: not perfused with red cells vascular cavities, rougher endothelium	myocardial fibrosis , Cardiomyocyte disarrangement (due to irrularfibers?)	Not available	Not available	Not available

Lietal (2020)-Plumbagin	24/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 14 days	Altered cardiac morphology (severe tissue damages, inflammatory cells infiltration, distracted tissue architecture)	cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Oxidative stress: SOD (75%). CAT (65.4%). GPx (60.2%) and GSH (78.3%) were decreased	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: CTnI (204%), TNF α tissue (525%). IL 1β (600%) evelsweresignificantly-increased.		
					BNP wasincreased (75%)		
Chaudharyetal (2020)	72/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 3 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology & complications (ischemia & myocardial necrosis)	cardiomyocytenecrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA (40.2%) and SOD (88.1%) were increased. while CAT (58.8%) and GSH (55.1%) were decreased.	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: TroponinT&Troponin I wereincreased (positiveresult)		
Nordgrenetal (2020)	20/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, sc / Six weekly injections	Cellularalterations (swollenmitochondria)	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Sun X etal (2020)	33/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (collagen I & III accumulation on left ventricles, cardiomyocyte apoptosis, myocardial fibrosis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis, myocardialfibrosis	Not available	Decrease 33.3%	Decrease 44%
Chuetal (2020) ^y	24/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 10 mg/kg, ip / Daily for three consecutive days	Altered cardiac morphology (necrotic cardiomyocytes, inflammatory cells, enlarged myocardial space, apoptosis of cardiac myocytes)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte dissarrangement, apoptosis of cardiac myocytes	Oxidative stress:Increase of MDA (66.3%) and decrease of SOD (36.3%). CAT (66.5%) and GSH (34.5%)	Not available	

Babaeietal (2020) ^c	30/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 1st group: 2 mg/kg ip, 2nd group: 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 12 days	Altered cardiac morphology Both groups: (swollen mitochondria with cristae)	Cytoplasmicvacuolation	Not available	Group 12 Decrease 28.7% Group 15 Decrease 31.3%	Group 12 Decrease 36.5% Group 15 Decrease 40%
Bin.Jardanetal (2020)	24/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (perivascular cuffing, interstitial fibrosis, myocytolysis, myonecrosis, infiltration of cells)	cardiomyocyteneclerosis, myocardialfibrosis	Inflammation: Increase of TNF α tissue (364.7%) and IL 1 β (224.2%)	Not available	Not available
					Oxidative stress: Decrease of SOD (58.3%) GSH (60.7%) CAT (66.7%) and increase of MDA (228%)		
Chenetal (2020) ^{aa}	36/male/Sprague–Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, iv / On days 7, 14, 21 and 28	Altered cardiac morphology (apoptosis, nuclear lysis, disassemble myocardial fiber, vacuolization, necrosis, inflammatory infiltration)	cardiomyocyte apoptosis, myocardial necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement (due to the disassembly of myocardial fibers?), Cytoplasmic Vacuolation		Not available	Not available
					Oxidative stress: Increase of MDA (150%) and decrease of SOD (75%) and GSH (28.6%)		
Sun Z etal (2020)	24/male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, iv / One injection per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial fibrosis, cardiac hypertrophy)	myocardialfibrosis	Inflammation: IL 1 β was increased (283.3%)	Decrease 24.4%	Decrease 33.3%
Wenetal (2020) ^{bb}	male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Daily for 7 days	Altered cardiac morphology (focal necrosis, myocardial fibrosis, interstitial edema, infiltration of inflammatory cells)	necrosis, myocardialfibrosis	Not available	Not available	Not available
Adiyamanetal (2022)	28/male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 10 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (severe myocyte misalignment, hypertrophy, fibrosis, MM & MH severely increased)	Cardiomyocytedisarrangement, Myocardialfibrosis	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (in serum 294% and in tissue 52.5%)	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: Troponin was increased (2792%)		
					NT proBNP was increased (85%)		

Azizetal (2020)	56/male/Albinorats	Doxorubicin 20 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (cytoplasmic vacuolization of cardiomyocytes, inflammatory cells infiltration, Zenker's necrosis of sporadic myocytes)	cytoplasmic vacuolation, cardiac muscle necrosis	Inflammation: Increase of Troponin I* (3800%). TNF α tissue (486.9%). IL 1 β (551.9%)	Decrease 45.8%	Decrease 53.7%
					Oxidative stress: MDA was increased(453.5%), GSH was decreased (71.77%) , SOD was decreased(72%)		
Hassanetal (2020)	60/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cytoplasmic vacuoles, myocardial inflammation, fibrosis)	cytoplasmicvacuolation, myocardialfibrosis	Oxidative stress: significant increase of MDA (261.5%) but CAT (66.5%) and GSH (81.5%) were decreased	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: significant increase of TNF α tissue (105.3%) and cTnl (250%)		
					Increase of BNP (77.0%)		
Ana Flávia M Botelho et al (2020) ^{cc}	20/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 12.5 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (moderate congestion, edema& fibrin between cardiomyocytes, emboli, perivascular edema, fiber fragmentation, loss of striations)	myocardialfibrosis, cardiomyocytedissarangement	Oxidative stress: Decrease of CAT (20%). GPx(37.04 %). No change in MDA	Not available	Not available
Radonjicetal (2020)	36/female/ AlbinoWistarrats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (moderate interstitial fibrosis, degenerately modified cardiac muscle fibres, vacuolar degeneration, myocytolysis, perivascular collagen accumulation)	myocardial fibrosis, cardiomyocyte dissarangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: Decrease of CAT (31.25%) and SOD (9.3%)	Not available	Not available

Akdemiretal (2021) ^{dd}	24/Wistartyperats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Six injections for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (deteriorated structure, Zenker's necrosis, hyperaemia, mild haemorrhage)	cardiac muscle necrosis, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Oxidative stress: Increase of MDA (31.4%) and decrease of GSH (44.4%).	Not available	Not available
					GPX (31%). SOD (38.9%) and CAT (51.9%)		
Efentakisetal (2020)	48/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg, ip / Six injections for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, myocardial fibrosis)	myocardialfibrosis	Oxidative stress: increase of MDA (100%)	Not available	Decrease 41.5%
					Inflammation: Increase of cTnl*(450%)		
Podyacheva et al (2022) ^{ee,ff}	75/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin Cumulative doses: 1st group: 25mg/kg, 2nd group: 20.4 mg/kg, 3rd group: 15 mg/kg, 4th group: 15mg/kg, 5th group: 10 mg/kg, 6th group: 5 mg/kg / 1st group: 10 times for 1.5 week daily, 2nd group: 6 times for 1.5 week on alternate days, 3rd group: 6 times for 1.5 week on alternate days, 4th group: 6 times for 2.5 weeks in 2 days, 5th group: 6 times for 2.5 weeks in 2 days, 6th group: 6 times for 2.5 weeks in 2 days	Altered cardiac morphology (capillary plethora, dilated vessels, loss of cardiomyocyte myofibrils, necrosis of epitheliocytes, vacuolization of cytoplasm, loss of nuclei, bands necrosis, minor heamorrhage)	Cardiomyocyte disarrangement, necrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolation	Not available	Not available	Decrease 31.2%

Ghalebetal (2021)	21/male/rats	Doxorubicin 2.5mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocytes apoptosis, inflammation, cellular swelling [grade 4] damage necrotic myocardial cells, cellular swelling, increased cytoplasmic eosinophilic, karryolysis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis, necrosis	Oxidative stress: Significant increase in MDA levels (96.6%)	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: Significant increase in CTnI*(166%) TNF a tissue (47.5%) and IL 6 (82.2%)		
Meeranetal (2021) ⁹⁹	72/male/ AlbinoWistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 5 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac muscle fibers degradation, inflammation, fibrosis, fibrillar collagen deposition)	myocardialfibrosis, cardiomyocytedissarrangement	Oxidative stress: Significantly decrease of SOD (51.8%), GSH (35.9%) and	Not available	Not available
					CAT (66.9%) Inflammation: significantly increase of TNF a tissue (175%), CTnI* (200%), CTnT*(200%), IL 6 (66.6%), IL 1β (73.3%)		
Chengetal (2020)	40/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Once per weer for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (collagen accumulation, cardiomyocyte apoptosis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis	Oxidative stress: Increase of MDA (56.5%) and decrease of SOD (27.1%)	Decrease 29.7 %	Decrease 50 %
					Inflammation: Increase of TNF a tissue (50%) and IL 6 (14.5%)		
					Increase of BNP (59.3%)		

Zhangetal (2023)	30/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, ip / On days 7, 14 and 21 for 28 days	Altered cardiac morphology & cellular complications (vascular congestion, necrosis cells, pyknotic nuclei, degeneration of myocardial fiber, vacuolization of sarcoplasm)	necrosis + tiallo??	Oxidative stress: increase of MDA (135.7%) and decrease of SOD (75.8%). CAT(50%) and GSH (68.6%)	Not available	Not available
					Inflammation: increase of cTnT* (232.5%), IL 6 (138.1%), IL 1β (104.5%), TNF α tissue (167.4%)		
Syahputraetal (2023)	Rats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / (no data)	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocyte apoptosis, inflammation, mitochondrial damage)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis	Oxidative stress: increase of MDA (92.3%) and decrease of SOD (73.5%)	Not available	Not available
Fanetal (2023) ^{nh}	99/male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin Cumulative doses: 1st group: 12 mg/kg, 2nd group: 15 mg/kg 3rd group: 18 mg/kg Modes of administration: ip and iv / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology All groups: myocardial collagen deposition, myocardial fibrosis, partial inflammatory cell infiltration 2nd group: focal fibrotic hyperplasia, 3rd group: diffuse fibrotic hyperplasia	myocardialfibrosis	Inflammation: increase of cTnI* (45.5%) increase of NT proBNP (76.3%)	Decrease 29.1%	Decrease 21.7%
Maetal (2023) ^{ji}	80/male/Sprague–Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Once every 4 days for 30 days	Altered cardiac morphology (cellular necrosis and vacuolization, myocardial fibers disarrangement, myocardial fiber lysis, vacuolar degeneration)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation	Inflammation: cTnI was increased (240%) and BNP was increased (80.5%)	Decrease 25%	Decrease 40%
Wuetal (2023)	54/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial apoptosis, autophagy, myofibril loss, myocardial necrosis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis, cardiomyocyteneclerosis	Not available	Not available	Not available

Shabaanetal (2023)	28/Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 12.5 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (branched disorganized cardiac muscle fibers with wide interstitial spaces, dilated congested blood capillaries, interstitial hemorrhage, inflammatory cell infiltration, darkly stained pyknotic nuclei, enlarged mitochondria, swollen matrix with loss of cristae)	Cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Oxidative stress: Significant increase of MDA (214.3%)	Not available	Not available
Shi H etal (2021)	40/male/Sprague-Dawley rats	Pirarubicin 3 mg/kg, iv / Once per week for 8 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (disarrangement of cardiomyocytes, enlarged intercellular space, focal vacuolization and steatosis)	Cardiomyocytedisarrangement, cytoplasmic vacuolation	Oxidative stress: SOD (47.1%) was decreased and MDA was increased (344.4%) Inflammation: cTnT was increased in serum (53%) and tissue (33.3%) BNP was increased (110%)	Decrease 26.5%	Decrease 36.8%
Wangetal (2020)	48/male/Sprague-Dawley rats	Pirarubicin 3 mg/kg, iv / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (loss of striation of myocardial fibers, hypertrophic myocardial fibers, pyknotic & deformed nuclei, interstitial edema)	Cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Not available	Decrease 14.2%	Decrease 19.4%
LeLietal (2020)	Wistar rats	Doxorubicin (no data) / 6 injections within 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiomyocytes' areas reduced, collagen deposition induced, cardiomyocyte apoptosis rate increased, myocardial fibrosis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis, myocardialfibrosis	Oxidative stress: decrease of SOD (73.3%) and CAT (64.8%) GSH Px (31.9%) and significant increase of MDA (350%)	Decrease 10.3%	Decrease 22%

Elblehietal (2021) ⁱⁱ	40/male/ Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / 6 injections within 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (interfibrillar infiltration, focal areas of hemorrhage, collagen deposition, vacuolization of sarcoplasm, Zenker's necrosis & degeneration, mononuclear inflammatory cells infiltrations, fibroblasts proliferation, hyperemic interstitial blood vessels, myocytolysis)	cardiac muscle necrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolation	Inflammation: increase of CTnI (400%).CTnT(246.2%).TnF a tissue (135.5%). IL 6 (85.7%) .IL 1β (74%)	Not available	Not available
					Oxidative stress: Decrease of GSH (53.6%). GPx(68.5%). SOD (68.6%) and CAT (45.3%) while MDA was significantly increased (86.1%)		
Olorundare O E et al (2020)	56/male/ Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 14 days	Altered cardiac morphology (myocyte congestion with scanty pyknotic and predominant hyperchromatic, meganuclei with interstitial fibrosis, myocardial hypertrophy, scattered cardiac myocyte necrosis)	cardiomyocytenecrosis, myocardialfibrosis	Inflammation : Troponin I was increased (415.3%)*	Not available	Not available
					Oxidative stress: Decrease of GSH (22.4%). GPX (27%). SOD (20%) and CAT (32.8%) while MDA wasincreased (16.7%)		
Chenetal (2023)	24/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Twice per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (vacuolation, myocardial fiber disarrangement, myocardial cell degeneration and necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration)	cardiomyocyte necrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolation, Cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Oxidative stress: decrease of SOD (38.6%) and CAT (69.2%) while MDA was significantly increased (125%)	Decrease 25.1%	Decrease 50%
					NT proBNP was increased (141.7%)		
Sharifiaghdamet al (2023)	40/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 12 days	Altered cardiac morphology (bigger intercellular distances and spaces, myocardial apoptosis)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis	Inflammation: cTnI was significantly increased (416.1%)	Not available	Not available
Maliket al (2022)	Rats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (mildly distorted cardiac architecture with edema, dilated blood vessels, mild lymphocytic infiltration)	CardiomyocyteDisarrangement	Oxidative stress: SOD (57.5%) and CAT (50%) were significantly reduced while MDA was significantly increased (22.9%)	Not available	Not available

Rajangametal (2022)	24/WistarAlbinorats	Doxorubicin 10 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (necrotic cardiac tissue damage, proliferated granulation tissues)	cardiacmusclenecrosis	Oxidative stress: SOD(20.82%) and CAT(33.85%) levels were decreased	Not available	Not available
NagoorMeeranetal (2023)	Rats	Doxorubicin 12.5 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (muscle fiber degradation with inflammatory cells [grade 2], disrupted myofibrils, separation of cardiac muscle fibers, necrosis, edema, inflammatory cells infiltration)	inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiac muscle necrosis, cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Not available	Not available	Not available
Avagimyanetal (2023) ^{kk}	80/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (left ventricle myocardium: edema, inflammatory infiltration, myocardium wave-like deformation and fragmentation, multiple fuchsinophilic substrates, severe venous hyperemia [grade 3])	inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Oxidative stress: MDA was decreased (279.54%). SOD (52.27%), GPx were decreased (70.19%) NT-pro-BNP was increased (151.43)	Not available	Not available
Bradicetal (2023)	24/male/ Wistaralbino rats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (degenerative changes, focal necrosis, confluent and massive necrosis of myocardium, fiber fragmentation, loss of nuclei, hypereosinophilia of the cytoplasm)	cardiac muscle necrosis and apoptosis	Not available	Not available	Not available
Ciceketal (2023)	28/male/ WistarAlbinorats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Cardiac muscle complications (mononuclear cell infiltration, hemorrhage)	inflammatorycellinfiltration	Inflammation: cTnT was increased (59.78%). Oxidative stress:MDA was increased (173.86%) while SOD (42.62%), CAT (59.53%), GSH (66.03%) and GPx (33.19) were decreased	Not available	Not available
Dantasetal (2022)	80/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 5 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (LV cardiomyocyte hypertrophy)		Not available	Not available	Not available

Hosseini et al (2022)	40/male/ Albino Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (extracellular edema, moderate congestion, small foci of hemorrhage)		Not available	Not available	Not available
Rankovic et al (2021)	48/Wistar albino rats	Doxorubicin 15mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (degenerative changes, unicellular or focal necrosis of cardiomyocytes, muscle fiber damage, hyperaemia, edema)	cardiac muscle necrosis	Oxidative stress: SOD (65.22%) and GSH (44.45%) were decreased while CAT (14.50%) was increased	Pretreatment: EF Increase (9.44%) Posttreatment: EF Decrease (30.16%)	Pretreatment: FS increase (2.82%) Posttreatment: FS Decrease (16.85%)
Sandamali et al (2021)	70/male/female/ Wistar albino rats	Doxorubicin 18 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (extensive early changes of necrosis in both peripheral and subendocardium of the myocardial tissue, intracellular vacuoles, wavy myocardial fibers, inflammatory infiltration, haemorrhages, interstitial edema, congestion of blood vessel)	cardiac muscle necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration	Inflammation: significant increased in cTnI (145.15%). Oxidative stress: significant decrease in GSH (51.06%) and GPx (9.37%). NT-pro-BNP was increased (792.80%) (with the value of it in control group be 41.57)	Not available	Not available
Sandamali et al (2020)	50/male/female/ Wistar albino rats	Doxorubicin 18 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology & nuclear changes (myocytes with hypereosinophilic cytoplasm, pyknosis, karyorrhexis, and karyolysis, necrosis, haemorrhages, inflammatory infiltrations, interstitial edema, congestion of blood vessel, wavy myocardial fibers, intracellular vacuoles)	cardiac muscle necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration	Inflammation: a significant increased in serum cTnI (145.15%) Oxidative stress: GSH (50.11%), GPx (24.68%), SOD activity (43.87%) and CAT (22.06%) were decreased while MDA (73.10%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Saad et al (2020) ^a	24/male Wistar rats	Doxorubicin 15 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (pathological lesions [grade 3], edema, loss of cellular boundaries, myocardial fibers disorganization, cytoplasmic vacuolization, and infiltration of the lymphocytes)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, inflammatory cell infiltration, cytoplasmic vacuolization	Inflammation: cTnI was increased (333.33%) Oxidative stress: MDA levels increased (58.16%) while CAT (34.25%) and SOD (56.36%) were decreased	Not available	Not available

Zhang et al (2018) <small>mm,nn</small>	30/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 1 mg/kg, ip / Daily for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (enhancement and loose arrangement of the myocardial fibers, loss of myocytes, vacuolar degeneration)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Inflammation: significantly increased the serum levels of TNF α (142.12%)	Decrease 22.99%	Decrease 26.13%
Tianetal (2017) ^{oo}	70/male/SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 3.0 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myofibrillar disorganization, marked interstitial edema and fibrosis, focal cytoplasmic vacuolation, interstitial fibrosis, perivascular fibrosis)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, myocardial fibrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolization	Oxidative stress: MDA was ncreased(133.33%) while SOD was decreased (59.44%)	Decrease 29.21	Decrease 42.57%
Andreadou et al (2014) ^{pp,qq}	90/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 3 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (focal edema, vacuolization and degeneration of myocardial fibers)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Oxidative stress: MDA was decreased (56.25%) Inflammation: IL 6 was decreased (41.19%)	Not available	Not available
Vasićetal (2018) ^{rr}	68/male/Wistar out-bred rats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 2 weeks (6 total doses)	Altered cardiac morphology (vacuolar degeneration of myocardial cells, interstitial mononuclear infiltration of cardiac tissue and myofibrillar contraction band necrosis, perivascular and interstitial fibrosis)	cytoplasmic vacuolization, inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiac muscle necrosis	Inflammation: Only 70 days post treatment cTn T was increased	Decrease 4.71%	Not available
Arozaetal (2010)	20/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Daunorubicin 3 mg/kg/day (18 mg/kg total dose) / On alternate days for 12 days	Altered cardiac morphology (edema, haemorrhage, congestion)		Not available	Not available	Not available
Argunetal (2015) ^{ss}	40/male/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg, ip / Twice per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (disarrangement of muscle fibers, myofibril loss, intracytoplasmic vacuole formation, congestive and hemorrhagic areas)	cardiomyocytedisarrangement, cytoplasmicvacuolization	Oxidative stress: Doxorubicin did not cause a significant difference in CAT (25.04%). SOD (10%) steady levels. GPx (16.64%) was decreased. Inflammation: TNF α (34.18%) was decreased BNP levels lowered (3.35%)	Decrease 21.65%	Decrease 30.39%

Tatlidede etal (2009) ^{tt}	32/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin cumulative dose: 20 mg/kg / On alternate days for 2 weeks (6 total doses)	Altered cardiac morphology (enhanced fibrotic activity, collagen accumulation, congestion & vacuolization in the connective tissue of muscle fibers)	myocardialfibrosis, cytoplasmicvacuolization	Oxidative stress: MDA (107.42%) was increased. Significant decrease in cardiac GSH (43.75%),SOD (27.77%) AND CAT (19.34%)	Decrease 17.46%	Decrease 40.70%
Tengetal (2010) ^{uu}	46/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 8 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (swelling of mitochondria and nuclei [grade 3], focal subendocardial fibrosis, disorganization of cardiomyocytes)	myocardialfibrosis, cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Not available	Not available	Not available
Kondruetal (2017) ^{vv}	24/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 5 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac fibrosis & perivascular fibrosis [grade 3], higher transmural fibrosis)	myocardialfibrosis	Oxidative stress:SOD was increased (46.43%) Inflammation: cTnTwas increased (200.87%)	Not available	Not available
Moriyamaetal (2016) ^{ww}	66/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, iv / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (slight intracytoplasmic vacuolation)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Inflammation:PlasmacTnl (278.26 %) levels were significantly increased	Not available	Decrease 23.24%
Shenetal (2016) ^{xx}	150/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin Cumulative dose : 12 mg/kg / 1st group: twice a week 1st group: 1 mg/kg, ip2nd group: 2 mg/kg, ip / 2nd group: once a week	Altered cardiac morphology (apoptosis, cardiomyocyte vacuolization [grade 3], degeneration and necrosis, interstitial edema, inflammatory cell infiltration)	cardiomyocyte apoptosis, cardiac muscle necrosis, cytoplasmic vacuolization, inflammatory cell infiltration	BNP wasincreased (71.97%)	Not available	not available
Shoukryetal (2017)	32/male/Wisterrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (widely spaced deep acidophilic fibers, multiple disrupted fibers, dark peripheral nuclei, congested blood vessels, dense collagen fibers)	cardiomyocytedisarrangement, myocardialfibrosis	Not available	Decrease 26.91%	Decrease 31.97%

Bertinchant et al (2003) ^{yy,zz}	35/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 1.5 mg/kg, iv / Weekly for up to 8 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (perivascular fibrosis, Interstitial fibrosis, myocyte vacuolisation and degeneration)	myocardialfibrosis, cytoplasmicvacuolization	Inflammation: significant increase in cTnT (200%) as well as in cTnl (1250%)	Not available	Not available
Gao et al (2017) ^{aaa,bbb}	90/male/Wistaralbinorats	Doxorubicin 2mg/ kg, ip / Every 3 days for 30 days	Altered cardiac morphology (infiltration of inflammatory cells, focal myolysis, karyopyknosis, vacuolar degeneration)	inflammatory cell infiltration, cytoplasmic vacuolization	Inflammation: TNF a (386.67%), IL 1β(92.10%) and IL 6 (161.29%) were increased Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (533.16%) BNP was increased (80.12%)	Decrease 64.98%	Decrease 45.71%
Luetal (2015)	48/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 1 mg/kg on the 2nd and 4th days, 2 mg/kg on the 6th and 8th days, 3 mg/kg on the 10th and 12th days, and 4 mg/ kg on the 14th and 16th days, ip (cumulative dose: 20mg/kg) / 10 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial fiber disruption and disarray, hyperplastic cardiomyocytes infiltration with inflammatory cells, fibrosis)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, inflammatory cell infiltration, myocardial fibrosis	Inflammation: a marked increase in cTnl (2054.54%)	Decrease 39.98%	Decrease 38.89%
Carresietal (2018)	40/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial degeneration, significant myocyte apoptosis, reactive myocyte hypertrophy, loss of myofibrillar structure)	cardiomyocyteapoptosis, cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (37.5%)	Decrease 24.48%	Decrease 35.67%
Maetal (2017) ^{ccc}	170 rats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / 6 doses over a period of 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac collagen deposition, inflammatory cells invasion, loss of myofibrils and disorganization)	inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiomyocyte disarrangement	Not available	Not available	Not available
Zhangetal (2017) ^{ddd}	26/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/2 ml/kg, ip / Twice per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (disorganization of myofibrillar morphology, myofibrillar loss and cytoplasmic vacuolization, apoptosis)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Not available	Not available	Not available
Sunetal (2017)	Experiment 1: 32/ male/Sprague-Dawley rats, Experiment 2: 16/ male/Sprague-Dawley rats, Experiment 3: 60/ male/Sprague-Dawley rats	Doxorubicin Experiment 1: 20 mg/kg, ip, Experiment 2: 5 mg/kg, iv, Experiment 3: 5 mg/kg, iv / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac damage [grade 3], myocardial fibrosis, myocardial degeneration and necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration, occasional vacuolization)	myocardial fibrosis, cardiac muscle necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration, cytoplasmic vacuolization	Oxidative stress: significantly increase in MDA (88.85%) as well as in cTnT (1595%)	Decrease 39.34%	Decrease 52.72%

Hionaetal (2010) ^{eee}	24/female/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin Cumulative dose: 25 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 6 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (scattered foci of myofibrillar degeneration)	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Tangetal (2013)	24/male/Sprague- Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days (6 total doses)	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial hypertrophy, myocardial edema, fiber breakage)	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Al-Taeetal (2019)	48/male/ AlbinoWistarrats	Doxorubicin 12.5 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (extensive muscle fiber degradation with inflammatory cells, extensive myofibrillar loss and mitochondrial degeneration)	inflammatorycellinfiltration	Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (191.67%). A significant decrease in the activity of SOD (74.48%) and GSH (29.03%) without significant change in the activity of CAT (0.68%) Inflammation: a significant increase in the levels of TNF α (63.73%), IL 6 (37.82%) and IL 1 β (47.21%)	Not available	Not available
Sahyonetal (2019)	20/male/ SpragueDawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (myocardial degeneration, vacuolation of the myocardial fibres, extensive myolysis, interstitial fibroblastic cell proliferation and numerous apoptotic cells [grade 3])	cytoplasmicvacuolization, cardiomyocyteapoptosis	Oxidative stress: CAT (32.37%) and GSH (63.75%) were decreased while MDA (424.75%) was increased	Not available	Not available
Sheibanietal (2020) ^{fff}	40/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (cardiac tissue disarrangement, lesion [grade 1-2], mononuclear cell infiltration, edema without hemorrhage and necrosis)	cardiomyocyte disarrangement, inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiac muscle necrosis	Oxidative stress: SOD was decreased (39.4%) while MDA was increased (410.05%). Inflammation: TNF α (152.19%) wasincreased	Not available	Not available
Abdelrahmanetal (2019)	24/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 17.5 mg/kg, ip / Single injection	Altered cardiac morphology (significant increase of collagen deposition, fibrosis, tubuli damage, inflammatory cell infiltration)	myocardial fibrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration	Not available	Not available	Not available
Jangetal (2019) ^{ggg}	45/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 20 mg/kg, sc / Two injections for 2 days	Altered cardiac morphology (interstitial edema, hemorrhage, loss of myofibrils with fiber disorganization [grade 3], myofibril injury with cytoplasmic vacuolization)	cytoplasmicvacuolization, cardiomyocytedisarrangement	Oxidative stress: activities of SOD (42.38%),CAT (35.20%) and GPx (45.74%) were significantly decreased while MDA (241.86%) was increased Inflammation: cTnl was significantly increased (757.81%)	Decrease 35.56%	Decrease 34.75%

Zhangetal (2020) ^{hhh}	32/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg, iv / Once per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology & complications (significant increase in intracellular space, cytoplasmic vacuolation and myocardial cell disorders)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Inflammation: Plasma cTnT was increased (54.54%) Oxidative stress: SOD was decreased (45.07%) and MDA was significantly increased (251.46%) BNP was increased (67.93%)	Not available	
Sharmaetal (2020) ⁱⁱⁱ	50/male/Sprague-Dawleyrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Once per week for 4 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (spread interstitial fibrosis, hypertrophic or atrophic myocardial fibers, degeneration of cardiomyocytes, inflammatory cell infiltrations)	inflammatorycellinfiltration	Oxidative stress: Significantly increased levels of MDA (394.81%) and a significant decrease in GSH (53.36%), SOD (35.01%) and CAT (40.06% of tissue)	Not available	Not available
Baniahmadetal (2020)	36/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (rupture of cardiac muscle fibers, hemorrhage, myocyte wavy degeneration, necrosis, inter-fibrillar congestion)	cardiacmusclenecrosis	Inflammation: significantly increased cTnI levels (1933.33%) Oxidative stress: MDA was increased (40.46%)	Not available	Not available
Todorova et al (2020) ^{jjj, kkk}	57/female/Fisher344 rats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / Twice per week for 3 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (excessive myofibrillar degeneration, swelling of sarcoplasmic reticulum, myocyte vacuolization, granulation of cytoplasm, hypereosinophilia)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Inflammation: increase in the circulating level of cTnI (30%) Oxidative stress: GSH was decreased (52.94%)	Not available	Not available
Razmaraii, N. etal (2016)	18/male/Wistarrats	Doxorubicin 2 mg/kg, ip / On alternate days for 12 days	Altered cardiac morphology (cytoplasmic vacuolization, interstitial edema, hyaline degeneration and Zenker's necrosis, focal to extensive hemorrhages, inflammatory cells infiltration, injured vascular structures, necrotic changes in the nuclei of cardiomyocytes and mild cardiac fibrosis)	cytoplasmic vacuolization, inflammatory cell infiltration, cardiac muscle necrosis, myocardial fibrosis	Not available	Decrease 28.72%	Decrease 36.47%
Swamy, A. V. et al (2012)	24/male/female/Albinorats	Doxorubicin 2.5 mg/kg, ip / Three times per week for 2 weeks	Altered cardiac morphology (loss of myofibrils and vacuolization of the cytoplasm)	cytoplasmicvacuolization	Oxidative stress: The MDA levels were increased (512.09%) while GSH (42.36%), SOD (39.40%) and CAT (32.21%) were significantly decreased.	Not available	Not available

- f. The results showed that DOX significantly induced an abnormally prolonged QRS complex and QT interval compared to the control group ($P < 0.05$ and $P < 0.001$, respectively).
- g. Secondary findings: 3 rats severe, 2 moderate, 2 mild
- h. LVEF and LVSV index (LVSVi) in the third subgroup (week 8, 3 weeks after the sixth DOX injection) and the fourth subgroup (week 10, 5 weeks after the sixth DOX injection) significantly declined compared with those in the control. In addition, LVEDV index (LVEDVi) in the third DOX subgroup was significantly lower than that in the control group. LV mass index in each DOX subgroups was significantly lower than that in the control group.
- i. Rats treated with DOX alone (2 mg/kg) showed several ECG changes including increased RRI, STI, and QRS duration and decreased HR compared to the saline group ($p < .001$). LVDP decreased in rats that received DOX.
- j. Secondary findings: Grade 3 characteristics (severe disruption of cardiac muscle architecture, severe loos of muscular striations, severe vascular congestion and hemosiderin, severe inflammatory cell infiltration, severe nuclear pyknosis)
- k. Revealed that exposure to DOX seriously impaired left ventricular (LV) function involving in parameters decrease of EF, FS, CO, LVID and LVAW.
- l. The acquired results displayed substantial variations in the ECG of doxorubicin-administered rats displaying significant ($p < 0.05$) prolongation of QT, QRS intervals and ST elevation compared to the control animals. The Dox control group revealed significant ($p < 0.05$) bradycardia (261 ± 15.60 beat/min) compared to control rats (379.33 ± 24.54 beat/min)
- m. Accordingly, the heart rate reduced by 24% in the DOX group compared to the control group ($p < 0.01$).
- n. Compared to control rats, the doxorubicin-treated rats showed a significantly lower Hct ($58.8 \pm 2.0\%$ vs. $43.3 \pm 12.0\%$, $P = 0.001$), cardiac output (0.15 ± 0.01 l/min vs. 0.12 ± 0.03 l/min, $P = 0.009$) and a higher LV end-systolic volume (LVESV) (0.18 ± 0.02 ml vs. 0.24 ± 0.05 ml, $P = 0.05$). LV mass and heart rate were not significantly different between the controls and doxorubicin-treated rats. In the subgroup analysis, the LVEF significantly decreased in 12-week treated rats ($73 \pm 4\%$ vs. $59 \pm 9\%$, $P = 0.01$)
- o. Secondary findings: Group 1= 2 deaths, Group 4 & 5: 1 death
- p. The results of the Echocardiographic M-mode tracings showed that the rats in the DOX group experienced a decrease in FS index, and DOX markedly decreased cardiac function indicator of HR, CO, and EF ($p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$).
- q. The electrocardiographic report showed some abnormalities associated with DOX cardiotoxicity, including increased QT and QTc interval duration, bradycardia, and R-R interval prolongation.
- r. There was a significant increase in PR interval ($p = 0.003$), QT interval ($p < 0.001$), QTc interval ($p < 0.001$) and decrease in QRS complex amplitude ($p < 0.001$) among DOX control animals in comparison with normal control animals.
- s. Rats in the DOX group showed significantly increased duration of QRS complex ($p < 0.001$), PR interval ($p < 0.01$), QT interval ($p < 0.001$), and QTc interval ($p < 0.001$) compared to the control group
- t. DOX intoxication induced a significant impairment in electrical conduction within the myocardium with a significant augmentation in ST segment elevation, QRS and T wave amplitudes, and QT and PR intervals by approximately 7.5-, 1.4-, 1.8-, 10.8-, and 1.33-fold, respectively, compared with the normal control.
- u. The intra-peritoneal injection of DOX induced bradycardia with elongation of R-R interval, accompanied by elongation of corrected QTc, elevation of ST height and shortening of T amplitude as compared with normal group. More specific: heart rate (bpm) :-23.44%, RR:27.8%, QTc duration(s):72.7%, P amplitude(mV): 16.07%, ST Height (mV): 108.5%, T amplitude: -72.0%
- v. RR was increased (33,0%), HR was decreased (-29%), QT interval was increased (38,8%) and ST elevation was also increased (258,3%).
- w. Rats treated with DOX had almost three-fold rise in the ST-height, DOX-induced QT prolongation.
- x. Secondary findings: 1st group: 1 rat died, 2nd group: 4 rats dies, 3rd group: 2 rats died before completion of study (hair loss, abdominal distention, ascites and pericardial effusion)
- y. J-point elevation and heart rate were obviously raised in the DOX rats.
- z. Secondary findings: Two deaths in 2nd group.
- aa. Secondary findings: Increased eye secretion, erected back hair and 1 death noticed.
- bb. t LVSP and +dp/dtmax decreased significantly in the DOX group, while LVEDP and -dp/dtmax increased substantially in the DOX group.
- cc. A) No pathologic arrhythmia was seen during the ECG in both times (T0 and TF) in the different groups. DOXO-

- treated rats however presented increases in the HR (378.8 ± 17.75 bpm), P-wave duration (43.8 ± 2.48 ms), duration of PR interval (62.8 ± 3.56 ms), and T-wave amplitude (54.6 ± 12.79 mV) in comparison to the other groups at TF. Other parameters such as P-wave amplitude, QRS complex duration, duration of QT interval, and amplitude of R wave remained unchanged B) Troponin I (cTnI) qualitative test was negative in all evaluated animals.
- dd. When heart tissues of rats in control and GA groups were examined, TNF- α and Cox-2 expressions were found to be negative
- ee. A) The authors did not evaluate troponin and N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) levels for model verification since literature data indicate the ambiguity of the relationship between these criteria and the severity of myocardial damage under the action of doxorubicin B) an increase in TNF- α was revealed in the group of animals treated with 15 mg/kg of the drug, which indicates there are persisting inflammatory processes in the heart muscle.
- ff. Secondary findings: 1st group: all rats dead, 2nd group: 30% of rats dead, 3rd group: no deaths
- gg. DOX injections to the rats caused a significant decline in the HR, SP, DP, and MAP when compared to the normal control group.
- hh. Secondary findings: During 4-6 week: activity decreased, eyelid secretion increased, food & water intake decreased, depilation, respiration accelerated, diarrhea. In the 2nd group only 8 rats survived and 9 rats in the others.
- ii. Secondary findings: Gradually developed poor diet, decreased activity, dull hair, yellowing, occasional diarrhea, and significant weight loss.
- jj. Secondary findings: 2 rats died, scruffy appearance, significant body weight loss, heart weight raised.
- kk. Intergroup differences in the indices of RR, QT, and QRS intervals. Difference in mean 95% CI, one-way ANOVA, post-hoc Tukey test. * $p = 0.05-0.01$ ** $p = 0.01-0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. $N = 80$
- ll. Secondary findings: 33% of rats died, minor body weight loss, significantly lower heart weight, rats with scruffy fur with pink tinge, red exudates around eyes and nose, soft watery feces and necrosis
- mm. Secondary findings: At the beginning of week 4, the rats became lethargic, had decreased food and water intake, slow movement, loss of hair luster, decreased activity, and symptoms of eyeball hyperemia and diarrhea. One rat died on each of days 35, 47, and 70 of the experiment in the ADR group, and the survival rate was 70%.
- nn. The LVIDd, and LVIDs in these two groups were significantly higher than those in the control group ($P < 0.05$). The LVEF and LVFS in these two groups were significantly lower than those in the control group ($P < 0.05$), whereas the LVEDP was higher.
- oo. The LVIDd and LVIDs of the DOX-CM group that were injected with DOX for 6 weeks and did not receive any treatment, showed great increase compared with the control group ($P < 0.05$), while LVEF and LVFS were significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$).
- pp. LV end-systolic diameter was marginally larger in the DXR group compared to controls.
- qq. Secondary findings: 19% mortality by the end of DXR injection protocol
- rr. LVIDd and LVIDs were increased, LVEDV had doubled and LVEF decreased.
- ss. Decrease in IVSTs, EF, and FS values and the increase in LVESD were significant.
- tt. LV posterior wall thickness, LV end-diastolic and end-systolic dimensions, as well as relative wall thickness and percentage fractional shortening and ejection fraction were increased significantly.
- uu. Secondary findings: 9 rats died throughout experiment
- vv. Significantly increased the LV internal dimensions, evident from LVIDD (1.4 fold higher, $p < 0.001$) and LVIDS (1.3 fold higher, $p < 0.01$) as well as thinning of LV as assessed by decrease in LVPWD (0.7 fold lower, $p < 0.05$), LVPWS (0.8 fold lower, $p < 0.05$), IVSS (0.8 fold lower, $p < 0.01$) and IVSD (1.2 fold lower, $p < 0.01$), decreased E wave and relatively increased A wave.
- ww. Secondary findings: 5/6 rats with grade 1 and 1/6 rats with grade 2
- xx. Secondary findings: "body hair was ruffled and alopecia occurred, physical activity was reduced, and the rats ingested less food. (11/50) of the rats died in the Dox 1 group, while 48% (24/50) of rats died in the Dox 2 group, while 22% (11/50) of the rats died in the Dox 1 group, while 48% (24/50) of rats died in the Dox 2 group (acute heart failure, sudden cardiac death)"
- yy. Secondary findings: 6 mg/kg: 1 rat : perivascular fibrosis (very slight), interstitial fibrosis (moderate), myocyte vacuolisation and degeneration, 7.5 mg/kg: perivascular fibrosis (2/6 rats very slight, 1/6 rat slight, 3/6 rats moderate), interstitial fibrosis (2/6 rats very slight), myocyte vacuolisation and degeneration (2/6 rats very slight), 12 mg/kg: perivascular fibrosis (6/11 rats very

- slight, 4/11 rats slight, 1/11 rats moderate), interstitial fibrosis (5/11 rats very slight, 2/11 rats slight, 1/11 rats moderate), myocyte vacuolisation & degeneration (3/11 very slight, 1/11 rats slight)
- zz. End-diastolic and end-systolic LV diameters/body weight (BW) significantly increased, whereas LV fractional shortening was significantly decreased after 9 weeks of treatment in the DOX group.
- aaa. Secondary findings: 12/30 rats died in the Dox group.
- bbb. LVD was significantly increased in the DOX group.
- ccc. Secondary findings: 23 rats died, scruffy, light yellowish fur, diarrhea and red exudates around the eyes with grossly enlarged abdomen and ascites.
- ddd. The echocardiograph results demonstrated that IVSTs significantly decreased in the DOX-treated group when compared with control rats (1.64 ± 0.15 vs. 2.03 ± 0.1 mm; $P < 0.05$; Fig. 2B). However, the decrease in IVSTd exhibited by DOX-treated rats was not significantly different when compared with the controls (0.99 ± 0.11 vs. 1.15 ± 0.12 mm; $P = 0.13$; Fig. 2C).
- eee. Significant decrease in cardiac function, as quantified by depressed fractional shortening of the LV.
- fff. ECG changes including QT and RR interval prolongation, significantly prolonged QRS segment.
- ggg. Decrease in the P wave and QRS complex, indicative of cardiac dysfunction, but the QT and RR intervals and ST segment were increased.
- hhh. Lower heart rate, decreased R wave voltage, and prolonged QT interval.
- iii. LVEDP was 7.24 ± 1.24 mmHg in the control group, and it was 49.94 ± 5.32 mmHg in DOXO treated group, respectively, BP increased from 147.18 ± 27.21 versus 93.56 ± 9.25 mmHg, respectively, Figure 2A), indicating LV overload.
- jjj. Secondary findings: 3 rats died
- kkk. DOX treatment significantly impaired cardiac function (means \pm SDs of -15.1 ± 14.3 ml/min for ΔCO and -16.3 ± 39.0 μ l for ΔSV).

Discussion and Conclusions

In order to substantiate the concern of cardiotoxicity as an emerging hazard for everyday chemicals, and after having identified a gap analysis in the ability of existing toxicity testing methods to identify cardiotoxic hazard, anthracycline induced cardiotoxicity in rats has been selected as a preliminary reference chemical exposed animal model, with the ultimate aim to develop reference parameters monitored and threshold levels for criteria based on effects

in vivo. These outcomes will be eventually be included into the regulation in order to classify chemicals for this new emerging hazard class of cardiotoxicity. In the present pilot scale review study, more than 500 different histopathological findings of anthracycline cardiotoxicity are reported in the literature, currently reviewed. In Figure 2 the most frequently reported ($>1\%$) are summarized. Histopathological effects both at the cellular level and tissue level are recognized. In addition, some of the reported effects could be regarded as more significant than others, concerning functional decline of the cardiac muscle.

Myocardial fibrosis seems to be a key event in anthracycline cardiotoxicity both in animals and humans. Interstitial and replacement fibrosis were evident in patients receiving cancer therapy as shown in a recent study evaluating biopsy and autopsy material [34]. Myocardial tissue disorganization and de-arrangement, probably as the result of myocardial cell necrosis, is another key event. Myocardial architecture preservation is of paramount importance and its loss is connected to the functional decline of the left ventricle in patients presenting cancer-related cardiotoxicity. Cardiomyocyte necrosis and replacement fibrosis work hand in hand, however, it is believed that another crucial step could interfere in the changes induced in the heart cytoskeleton, which crucially alters the mechanical properties of the heart [35].

In the cellular level cardiomyocyte necrosis and apoptosis are the hallmarks of cancer-related cardiotoxicity along with cell vacuolization, when the tissue samples are histopathologically examined [36]. These irreversible cellular changes are connected to the well-known effects of anthracycline cardiotoxicity and justify the perception of the permanent insults of anthracyclines justifying the struggle for the early detection of cardiotoxicity at the clinical level. Thus, the histopathological findings of the anthracycline cardiotoxicity in connection to the functional decline of the myocardium could be arbitrarily separated into crucial findings highly predictive of a consequent loss of function and findings not firmly connected to them. Myocardial necrosis and vacuolization in histopathological evaluation should be considered significant findings especially if observed in high frequency. Myocardial disorganization and fibrosis, both replacement and interstitial, should be considered key events closely linked to functional decline especially when the myocardial cytoskeleton is affected too. Anthracycline cardiotoxicity has received scientific and clinician attention since the 70s. Histopathology played an important role in the quest to define the specific type of cardiotoxicity. However, despite the considerable efforts, neither the biochemical pathways nor the specific histopathology lesions were firmly connected to functional decline in humans and the relevant animal models. In humans, additional parameters beyond

the administered scheme, chemical substance, cumulative dose, and duration of exposure as comorbidities including hypertension and renal failure, concomitant medication, and age impact the extent of functional decline.

Amongst the histopathological findings, cardiomyocyte vacuolization represents an early stage of doxorubicin cardiotoxicity in which the histopathological alterations could be potentially reversible and this is a field of active research with the use of magnetic resonance imaging [274]. Later findings include interstitial fibrosis along with cardiomyocyte necrosis when the disease is thought to enter a more advanced state. At this point, myocardial functional decline is evident through echocardiography and its hallmark systolic function suppression, measured by myocardial ejection fraction and fractional shortening, decreases. In animal models, focal fibrosis occurs late in the cardiotoxicity progression, usually along with cardiomyocyte necrosis, and it represents a time point where echocardiography could meet prominent histopathological lesions [275]. A temporal gap was found between histopathological changes and functional decline in animal models of cardiotoxicity possibly representing the importance of cytoskeleton alterations in the occurrence of myocardial ejection fraction decline [276]. Myocardial cytoskeleton and ultrastructural alterations are of par-amount importance in the study of heart failure and those lesions are thought to be critically important in cardiac mechanics. Among the most recognized factors affecting anthracycline cardiotoxicity, characterized widely as the main pathophysiological hypothesis is oxidative stress. Reactive oxygen species and lipid peroxidation of cardiomyocyte cell membranes pave the way for myocardial functional decline [277]. Mitochondrial dysfunction and genetic and epigenetic changes are also induced by the central role of molecules as Topoisomerase (Top) 2b [278]. Oxidative stress occurs early in the continuum of anthracycline cardiotoxicity, it acts primarily at the subcellular (molecular) level and the myocardial functional decline depends on a function of oxidative stress exposure and time [279]. Thus, pinpointing actual oxidative stress levels where oxidative stress meets overt cardiotoxicity even in animal models is extremely difficult. This review summarizes the range of key biochemical markers related to inflammation and oxidative stress, including cTnT, cTnI, TNF α , IL-6, IL-1 β , GSH, GSH-Px, CAT, SOD, and MDA, as well as histopathological findings used to describe anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity in rats. The review also presents the normal values for these markers as reported in the respective studies. The graphical representations indicate a clear distinction between the normal values and those suppressed due to anthracycline administration. This finding is significant and promising, as it suggests that, when combined with echocardiographic and histopathological data, it could greatly reduce uncertainty and enhance the reliability of weight-of-evidence assessments for

potential cardiotoxicity in humans caused by chemicals. Consequently, the results highlight the need for more centralized research, ideally coordinated by a regulatory agency, to effectively establish a set of criteria for classifying cardiotoxicity. Currently, in the evaluation of chemical toxicity, cardiotoxicity is not designated as a separate hazard class for chemical substances under international regulations. Therefore, the detected effects in animal studies, are considered if detected mainly on the tissue level. Hence, chemicals other than pharmaceutical agents are classified as cardiotoxic after having manifested severe effects on humans, based on epidemiological studies. In a previous review of our research team [38], the cardiac pathology and function impairment due to exposure to pesticides revealed that several cardiovascular complications have been reported in animal models including electrocardiogram abnormalities, myocardial infarction, impaired systolic and diastolic performance and histopathological findings, such as haemorrhage, vacuolization, signs of apoptosis and degeneration [37]. In addition, there is evidence that short and/or long term exposure to anabolic androgenic steroids is linked to a variety of cardiovascular complications which could be identified by using echocardiography or biochemical markers [7,38,39]. In the context of recognizing all chemicals that cause cardiotoxicity, studies have also assessed the impact of indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), revealing hypertrophic and fibrotic responses in cardiac tissues, increased oxidative stress, and impaired cardiac function, supported by biomarker alterations, echocardiographic impairment, and severe histopathological changes [268,269]. The available data clearly indicate the necessity of establishing regulatory criteria to assess cardiotoxicity as an intrinsic property of chemical substances in advance. This would allow for the characterization of exposure risks via a robust regulatory framework based on animal models—similar to the approach taken for other human health hazards, such as carcinogenicity. The establishment of regulatory criteria will enable international organizations to promptly detect cardiotoxic effects and classify chemicals, thereby preventing long-term cardiovascular complications. Specific classification criteria should be developed based on anatomical, histopathological, echocardiographical, and biochemical findings in animals in a way that could exclude confounding factors in the evaluation of the observed cardiotoxicity. The results of the present study are promising in identifying biochemical and histopathological criteria which could further enhance the validity of echocardiography in evaluating cardiotoxicity. Further studies and meta-analyses are needed to gather additional evidence from other species, commonly used in research, and set values for biochemistry and histopathology for the diagnosis of cardiotoxicity in animal experiments, thus adding significantly to scientific knowledge and the quest for early diagnosis of not-so-known forms of cardiotoxicity beyond anthracyclines and cancer treatment. The diagnostic

methods discussed so far in this manuscript have been frequently used for several years. However, it must be noted that in the past years, novel biomarkers of target organ toxicity have been widely used with significant applicability. More specifically, tumor suppressive and oncogenic pathways have been found to involve microRNAs (miRNAs) [40]—microRNAs that are noncoding RNAs that repress the expression of target mRNAs in a post transcriptional way, including apoptosis, differentiation and cancer [41]. Measuring plasma miRNAs and messenger RNAs (mRNAs) reveals the on-going physiological processes in cells and tissues that package and release miRNAs into the extracellular space. Additionally, miRNA assessment is non- or minimally invasive, thereby enhancing animal welfare. Technologically, these molecules are ideal for quantitative analysis due to their rapid standardization and robust performance [42]. Notably, these markers exhibit significant and early changes—reflecting tissue-specific expression—after being released into the plasma during toxic events [43, 44, 45]. These advantages have heightened research interest in circulating miRNAs as promising biomarker candidates.

Relatively novel biomarker as these mentioned above, although of high scientific relevance, their applicability for regulatory purposes is limited due to various reasons, such as restricted availability of data and narrow experience in hazard assessment. Therefore, this review has chosen to concentrate on the most commonly used and traditional biomarkers—those extensively documented in the literature and for which ample data exist. Additionally, the experience gained from risk assessments in the newly established hazard classes for endocrine disruptors indicates that, particularly for regulatory purposes, assessors tend to rely on older data to uphold animal welfare considerations.

In conclusion, both researchers and regulators must intensify their efforts to further support the weight-of-evidence approach and delineate cardiotoxicity as a toxicological hazard class relevant to humans, recognized by regulatory agencies. Specifically, the updated roadmap [48] proposed in this manuscript for deriving regulatory criteria from animal studies includes the following steps:

1. A meta-analysis should be conducted for each line of scientific evidence—such as histopathological, biochemical, and echocardiographic indices—observed in animal species after exposure to established human cardio-toxicants (e.g., anthracyclines). This analysis aims to identify threshold values or ranges that distinguish between normal and altered states resulting from exposure;
2. Validation of the previously described evidence in animals that exposed to different alleged cardiotoxic substances (e.g., AAS and pesticides);
3. Establish the mechanisms of action by analyzing data

from both confirmed and suspected cardiotoxicants, and correlate these with the evidence-based parameters used in developing classification criteria.

4. Introduction of novel biomarkers and computational (in silico) methodologies.

Author Contributions

All authors have read and approved the final version of this manuscript. NA, NEK, GP and KT have equally contributed. NA, NEK and GP conducted the review in the context of the master thesis and KT was the main cardiologist of the team. NA, NEK, GP, NG: Performing of the research, collecting data, writing of the research article. KT, CT: Conceptualization of the project, setting criteria for the research, verification of the results, reviewing the manuscript, the statistics and the reference list, overall project management. GENK, J-LD: Data extraction, evaluation of the results, statistical analysis. DK, NG, CT: Overall project overview, data assessment, evaluation of the results, evaluation of the applicability of the findings, reviewing and writing of the re-search article and plan assessment.

Funding

This research received no external funding

Institutional Review Board Statement

Not applicable

Informed Consent Statement

Not applicable

Acknowledgments

Not applicable

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest. The positions and opinions presented in this article are those of the authors (Nikolaos Georgiadis, Jean-Lou C. M. Dorne, George E. N. Kass) alone and are not intended to represent the views or any official position or scientific works of the European Agencies EFSA and ECHA.

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