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# RETROGRESSIVE CONSEQUENCES OF CIGARETTE SMOKING ON SERUM LIVER FUNCTION ENZYMES ACTIVITIES AND ANTIOXIDANTS STATUS AMONG SMOKERS

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**ABSTRACT** - Cigarette smoke contain large amount of oxidants which are capable of generating reactive species which play key role in oxidative stress. This study estimated the effects of cigarette smoking on serum antioxidant status and lipid peroxidation between smokers and non-smokers. Twenty healthy (n=10) smokers (consume at least 5 sticks of cigarette per day) and non-smokers (never smoke in life) aged 15 - 35 years were recruited for the research. Serum antioxidant vitamins (A, C, and E), ALP, ALT and malondialdehyde were estimated and compared to aged matched control (non-smokers) group. The levels of all those antioxidant vitamins were found to be significantly lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) in smokers than non-smokers, ALT and ALP activities and malondialdehyde level were found to be significantly higher ( $P > 0.05$ ) in smokers than non-smokers. It could therefore be concluded that even while looking healthy, cigarette smoking increase the rate of possible exposure to all adverse life shortening diseases as a result of depletion of antioxidants to scavenge the excess free radicals consumed in cigarette smoking.

**KEYWORDS:** Cigarette; Antioxidants; Lipid Peroxidation; Smokers; Serum.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The world health organization (WHO) in 2002 ranked tobacco smoking among the ten greatest factors of death and manifestation of many chronic diseases. It has been estimated that 1 billion men and

50 million women currently smoke cigarettes, a possible major risk factor for cancer, heart, lung diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and visual disease such as cataract and age-related muscular degeneration (Gandhi *et al.*, 2009; Thum, 2013).

Cigarette is a product consumed through inhalation of smoke and manufactured from cured and finely cut tobacco leaves and reconstituted tobacco, often combined with other additives, then rolled into a paper cylinder (Maod and Solom, 1995). Nicotine is the main active ingredient of tobacco. In 1851, the Belgium chemist Jean Stas documented the use of tobacco extract as 'murder poison' (Johnson *et al.*, 1997). Cigarette is a mixture of 4000 bioactive substances (nicotine, hydrogen cyanide, methanol, butane, etc) which are capable of causing an increase in the generation of various reactive oxygen species (ROS), reactive nitrogen species (RNS) and also acetaldehyde, which are collectively called "free radicals", they undergo complex interaction with human biological system (Heinecke *et al.*, 1994; Chappel *et al.*, 1997; Henderson *et al.*, 1999; Iain *et al.*, 2007; Kim *et al.*, 2007). It has been reported that one puff of cigarette exposes the smoker to more than  $10^{15}$  free radicals and other oxidants (Pryor and stone, 1993). It is also attributed to about 23 % of all coronary heart disease deaths and also to other heart related diseases including hypertension, Ischemic heart disease and atherosclerosis among. It may reduce fertility, and is a known cause of erectile dysfunction in men (Gades *et al.*, 2005). Research studies have found that smoking and exposure to



second hand smoke pregnant women are major causes of spontaneous abortions, stillbirths and sudden infant deaths syndrome (Armstrong, 1992). Similarly, it causes ectopic pregnancy, a condition that is very rarely survivable for the fetus and is potentially fatal for the mother (Jackshaw *et al.*, 2011). Children exposed to secondhand smoke before and after birth are at great risk of abnormal blood pressure, cleft palates, and lips, childhood leukemia, attention deficit disorder, childhood wheezing, and respiratory disorders (Ahlborg and Bondin., 1991; Cooke, 1991). In 2010, approximately 5 million died each year from tobacco related illnesses and if current trends continue, this figure will rise to about 10 million by 2025.

The defense system against radicals consists of enzymatic and non-enzymatic; essential and non-essential; endogenous and exogenous free radicals scavengers which may possess a protective role and may reduce the incidence of major diseases associated with cigarette smoking (Eduardu *et al.*, 1999). This research compared serum antioxidant status, liver function indices and lipid peroxidation in cigarette smokers and non- smokers. The specific objectives end point of this research are to determine anthropometric parameters such as body weight, height, hip width; hematological study, serum levels of antioxidants vitamin (A, C and E), serum activities ALT and ALP on the cigarette smokers and non-smokers.

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### **Sample Collection, Separation and Storage:**

Twenty healthy volunteers from the community were recruited after collection of their respective data using questionnaire and their serum was used in the study. Blood samples were drawn after an overnight fasting and allowed to coagulate. The coagulated blood was centrifuged to separate the serum from the whole blood at 4000 revolution per minute (rpm) for 5

minutes. The supernatant was pipette into plain bottles and stored at 0 °C until required for analysis.

**Determination of Serum Parameters:** Estimation of serum vitamin A by Latimer (2007) methods while serum vitamin C was by Baker and Frank (1968) method with the ascorbic acid oxidizes to dehydroascorbic acid, which is an acid solution reacts with 2, 4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) forming a corresponding hydrazone. The hydrazone when reacted with sulfuric acid ( $H_2SO_4$ ) develops an orange-red color, which is measured spectrophotometrically at 520 nm. Estimation of serum vitamin E by Baker and Frank (1968) method based on the reduction of ferric ions to ferrous ions which forms red color which diphyridyl acid then measured spectrophotometrically at 460 nm. Estimation of serum malondialdehyde was by Hartman (1983) method whereby malondialdehyde in serum reacts with thiobarbutric acid (TBA) in acidic medium that produces a pink color complex which is measured spectrophotometrically at 532 nm.

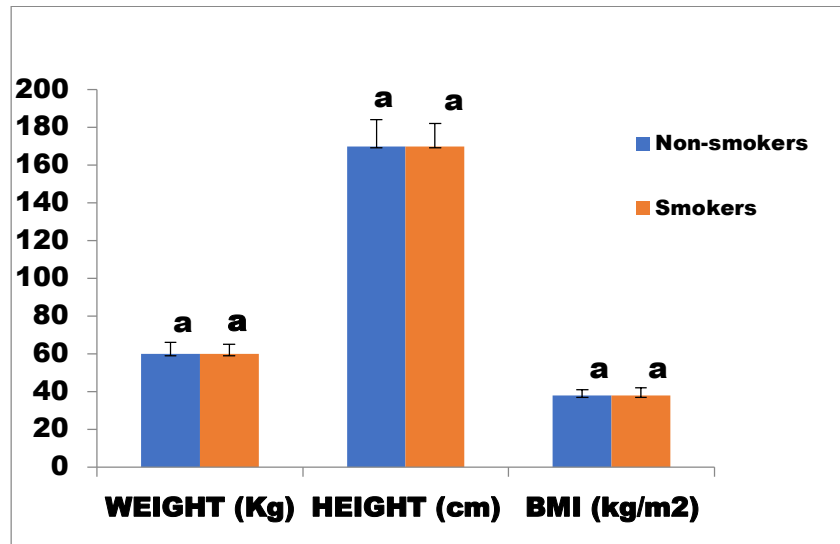
## III. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Results are presented as means  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM). The parameters were analysed statistically using student's t-test and One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with GraphPad instat software; version 3.1 and Microsoft excel; 2010 version. Difference were considered statistically significant at  $P < 0.05$ .

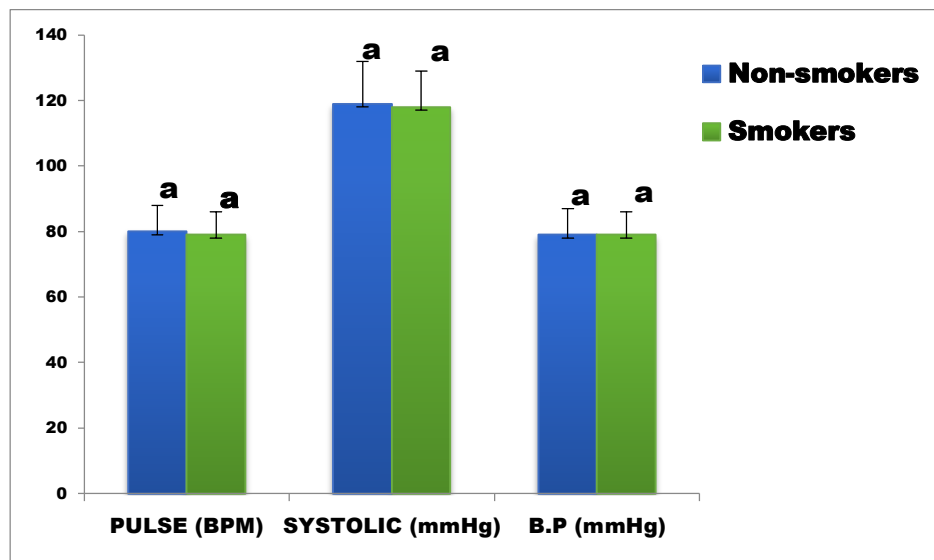
## IV. RESULTS

### **Anthropometric Parameters of Smokers and Non-Smokers**

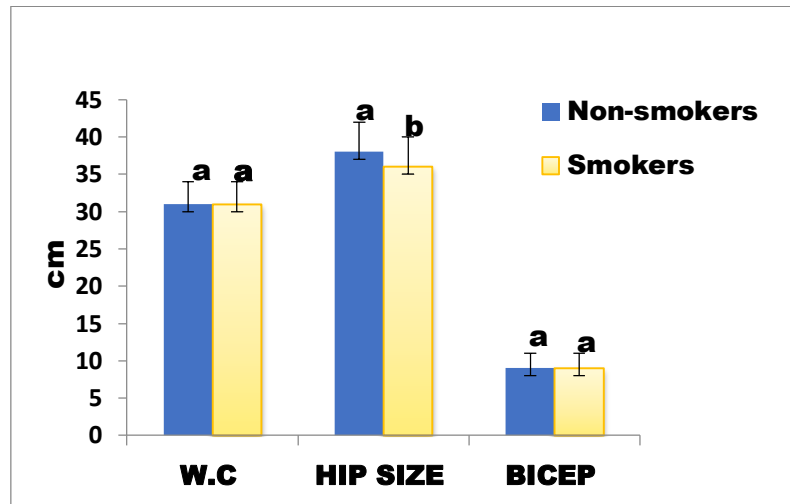
The effect of anthropometric parameters such as weight, height, hip size, body mass index, biceps of smokers were compared with that of non-smokers (Figure 1, 2 and 3). There was no significant difference ( $P > 0.05$ ) when compared with the control (non- smokers).



**Figure 1: Effect of Cigarette Smoking on Body Weight, Height and Body Mass Index (BMI) of Smokers and Non-Smokers**



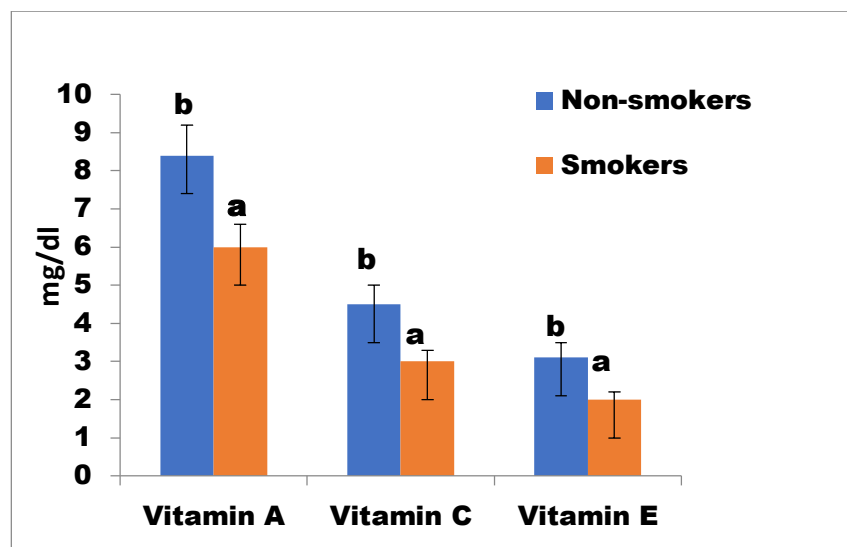
**Figure 2: Effect of Cigarette Smoking on Pulse, Systolic and Diastolic Pressure of Smokers and Non-Smokers**



**Figure 3: Effect of Cigarette Smoking on Waist Circumference (W.C), Hip Size, and Bicep of Smokers and Non-Smokers**

#### **Serum Antioxidant Vitamins Levels in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

Figure 4 shows serum antioxidant vitamins (A, C, and E) levels in smokers and non-smokers. It has proven that cigarette smoking significantly decreased ( $P < 0.05$ ) the level of antioxidant vitamins.

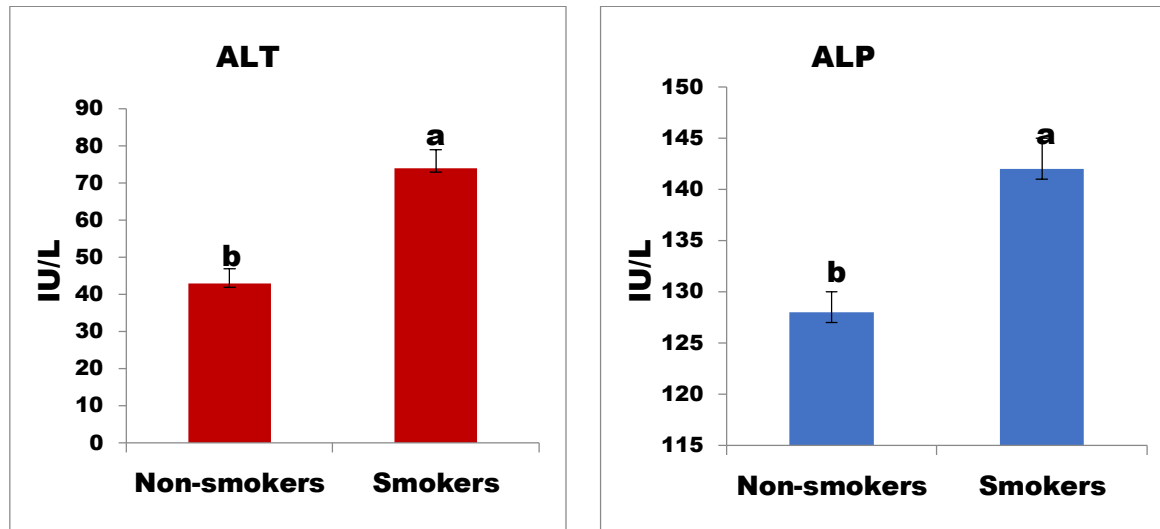


**Figure 4: Serum Antioxidant Vitamins A, C and E Levels in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

#### **Liver function Enzymes Activities in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

Figure 5 shows the liver function activities of ALT and ALP enzymes between smokers and non-

smokers. It was observed that smokers have significant higher ( $P > 0.05$ ) liver function enzymes ALP and ALT activities when compared with non-smokers.

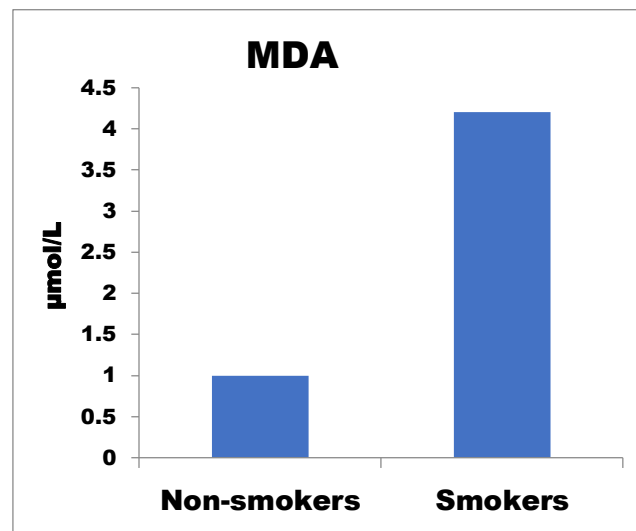


**Figure 5: Effects of Cigarette Smoking on Serum Alanine Transaminase (ALT) and Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) Activities in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

#### **Serum Level of Malondialdehyde in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

The effect of cigarette smoking on MDA level was compared with the control (non-smokers). Figure 6

shows MDA level between smokers and non-smokers. It reveals that smokers have higher level of MDA compared to non-smokers and this will finally lead to lipid peroxidation



**Figure 6: Effects of Cigarette Smoking on Serum Level of Malondialdehyde in Smokers and Non-Smokers**

#### **Hematological Profiles of Smokers and Non-Smokers**

**Table 1: Hematological of Smokers and Non-Smokers**

| Parameters | Smokers | Non-Smokers |
|------------|---------|-------------|
|            |         |             |



|                          |              |            |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| PVC                      | 35±1.1       | 29.2±0.75  |
| RBC (10 <sup>3</sup> µL) | 3.24±0.87    | 3.06±0.59  |
| WBC (10 <sup>3</sup> µL) | 4.211±0.12   | 3.70±0.05  |
| Hb (g/dl)                | 14.01±2.23   | 12.71±1.23 |
| PLT (10 <sup>3</sup> µL) | 152.25±50.25 | 170±40.13  |
| MPV (fl)                 | 3.26±1.10    | 3.28±0.74  |

**KEY USED:** Packed cell volume (PCV), Red Blood Cell (RBC), White Blood Cell (WBC), Hemoglobin (Hb), Platelet (PLT), and Mean Platelet Volume (MPV)

## V. DISCUSSION

Cigarette smoking has been report to contain larger amount of free radicals and other highly reactive molecules. The increase concentration of the reactive molecules in tissue could induce lipid peroxidation. With contaminant release of products such as malondialdehyde which can be assayed as a marker (Morrow *et al.*, 1995; Abdulrahman *et al.*, 1997; Flemming *et al.*, 1997; Reejomol and Swaminathan, 2013). Similarly, this study is aligned to the above findings; revealing that the concentration of malondialdehyde was found to be higher in smoker than non-smokers. The observed increase in the level o malondialdehyde in the serum of the smokers is linked to the increase in the level of exogenous free radicals generated from the cigarette smoke that ultimately lead to lipid peroxidation (Reejomol and

Swaminathan, 2013). It is suggested cigarette smoke impair the oxidant-anti oxidant balance, which is a major risk factor in oxidative stress (Hauwa'u *et al.*, 2017).

Vitamin A is a strong antioxidant and is the best quencher of singlet oxygen. Its lipophilic nature allows it to pass across the membrane and scavenge free radicals (Eiserich *et al.*, 1995; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2000). Diverse observation were reported on the effect of cigarette smoking and serum levels of vitamin A. some revealed a significant effect (Parviannen *et al.*, 2009; Antwerpen *et al.*, 1995; Ascherio *et al.*, 1992; Wallstrom *et al.*, 2000; Chui *et al.*, 2009) while others observed a significant increase in the levels of vitamin A (Biesalski *et al.*, 1986). Correspondingly, this research revealed that smokers had significantly lower levels of serum Vitamin A than non-smokers at  $p < 0.05$ . Even so, Ojima *et al.*, reported that even low levels of vitamin A may inhibit lipid peroxidation and thus reduce the

oxidative loss of vitamin E by singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ) (Ojima *et al.*, 1993). Consequently, it is likely that a lower level of vitamin A among smokers in an upshot of destruction of this antioxidant during neutralization of free radicals present in cigarette smoke which contain more free radicals than the biological antioxidant defense system can handle (Abdulrahman *et al.*, 1997). Vitamin C is a water-soluble vitamin that efficiently scavenges free radicals and inhibits lipid peroxidation. It also promotes the regeneration of the active form of vitamin E ( $\alpha$ - tocopherol) from  $\alpha$ - tocopheroxyl radical produced during scavenging of ROS (Satyanarayana and Chakrapani, 2006) vitamin C levels. Some revealed there is effect; showing that smokers have statistically significant lower levels than non- smokers (Gey, 1992; Greg, 2003) while others reported a reverse effect. Previous reports have shown that low vitamin C concentration in the plasma/ serum, leukocytes, and urine of cigarette smokers are associated with increased number of neutrophils, which suggests increased utilization, lower intake, or reduced bioavailability of vitamin C in smokers than non-smokers (Chow, 1997). A significant amount of researches indicates that smokers may have higher requirement for vitamin C (Burri and Jacob, 1997) and concentration of vitamin C are lower in smokers than non-smokers that is inversely related to cigarette use (Cross and Halliwell, 1993). Conversely, this research indicated smokers had lower levels of serum vitamin A than non-smokers with significantly difference.

This result is evidence that accumulation of excess free radicals and other reactive molecules regenerated from cigarette smoke which depletes/reduces the level of vitamin C in the serum as seen in smokers (Christine *et al.*, 2006). Among other plausible explanations, the lower serum Vitamin C levels observed in smokers might reflect an altered metabolism of ascorbic acid, decrease absorption;



increased metabolism demand, increased elimination, or any combination of these factors might influence the metabolic fate of ascorbic acid, resulting in the consistent observation of lower serum level in the smoking population (Christine *et al.*, 2006).

Lipid structures, like membranes are particularly susceptible to oxidative stress. Smokers have been reported to display evidence of more endogenous lipid peroxidation than non-smokers (Kelly, 2002). The biological activity of vitamin E is almost entirely due to its antioxidant properties. In addition to its antioxidant role, vitamin E might also have a structuring role in stabilizing membrane and it particular effective in preventing lipid peroxidation (Christine *et al.*, 2006; Hauwa'u *et al.*, 2017).

In the same way, this study shows that the serum level of vitamin E was observed to be significantly lower in smokers than non-smokers at  $p < 0.05$ . It is in line with the findings of other studies (Mezzetti *et al.*, 1995; Palanisamy *et al.*, 2009). Abdulrahman *et al.* (1997) also reported a similar result but there was no significance between two subject groups. The abundance of free radicals in cigarette smoke may induce oxidative stress in respiratory and circulatory systems, and the lower concentration of antioxidants found in smokers may be due to a sustained smoke-related oxidant load that depletes the antioxidant (Walmsley *et al.*, 1994). It is now evident that the level of free radicals consumed in cigarette smokes induces lipid peroxidation and ultimately lead to decrease in vitamin E levels in the serum because it is involved in breaking the chain reaction initiated.

The observed increase and decrease levels of malondialdehyde and antioxidant vitamins respectively in smokers in relation to increase in levels of cigarette consumption in this study is evident that increase in free radicals generation, lipid peroxidation and subsequent release of MDA which decrease the levels of antioxidant vitamins in the serum as the results of their constant destruction during the neutralization of these free radicals. This is in line with findings of Christine and David (2007).

This study exposed that there was no significant difference between serum levels of antioxidant vitamins and malondialdehyde in smokers in relation to different age group. This is in contrast to the findings of Chui *et al.*, (2009) and also Christine and David (2007). This may be due to narrowing of age range (15 to 35 years) in this research, difference in rate of cigarette consumption, duration of smoking, dietary intake of fruits and vegetables or combination of these. It has been speculated that difference are at least partly dependent on differences in dietary intake of antioxidant vitamins (Gey, 1992).

Therefore, combination of cigarette smoking and low dietary intake of essential antioxidant may aggravate the damage of oxidant present in cigarette smoke. Enzymes are leaked out into blood and increased the level of ALP and ALT in smokers when compared to non-smokers. In this study, we have observed the ALP and ALT activities were significantly increased in smoker's plasma. Although the results showed elevated ALP levels in smokers compared to non-smokers, ALP was strongly influenced by smoking (Vardavas *et al.*, 2012; Gboyega *et al.*, 2013). Cigarette smoking has been found to cause several major morphological and biochemical problems in individuals. In this study, hematological parameters had been used for comparative analysis between smokers and non-smokers. The experimental results showed significant difference in hematological parameters of subject; PCV, RBC, WBC, Hb, PLT, and MPV levels.

The high WBC count may suggest they might be at great risk of developing atherosclerosis and cardiovascular diseases than non-smokers. This study shows that hemoglobin values were significantly high in smokers. Elevated level of hemoglobin is found with increased numbers or size of RBCs. RBC values was significantly high in smokers than non-smokers. It is reported that the high level of RBC and WBC are associated with blood viscosity and clotting in smokers (Levenson, 2003).

## VI. CONCLUSION

This research revealed that increase in cigarette consumption decrease the level of serum antioxidant vitamins (Vitamin A, C and E) and increase the extent of lipid peroxidation although age difference and anthropometric parameters were not found to have any significant differences between smokers and non-smokers. Heavy smoking was associated with increased ALT and ALP levels. It clearly shows that continuous cigarette smoking has severe adverse effect on hematological parameters

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