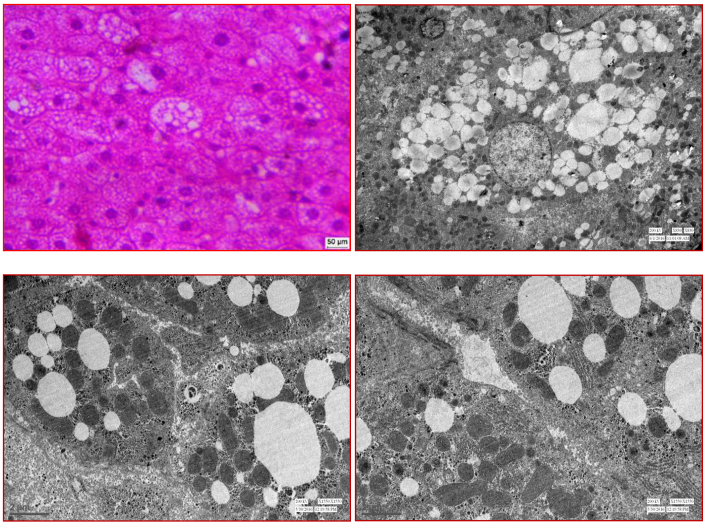
A Handbook on

Hepatotoxicity



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Contents

Chapters

Page no

Chapter 8

Aflatoxin induced Hepatotoxicity

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Aflatoxin (AF), is a mycotoxin secreted by *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. These are naturally occurring mycotoxins and are responsible for contaminating various crops, food, nuts and dairy products. There are about 20 AF out which AFB1, B2, G1 and G2 are most prevalent and out of these four AFB1 is most lethal and is widely studied. According to IARC 1993, AFB1 is classified as class 1 carcinogen. Several studies have shown that people from tropical and sub-tropical countries are at high risk of AFB1 exposure. Exposure of AFB1 in humans causes aflatoxicosis, liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, multiple organ failure and stunted growth. Most of the countries have set a limit for AFB1 exposure to tackle the menace of AFB1 but due to lack of awareness and poor hygiene condition exposure to AFB1is unavoidable.

A brief history of Aflatoxin (AF)

AF was first discovered during the epidemic of "Turkey X Disease". In year 1960, over 1 lakh of turkey suddenly died. The