



Figure (8): Mean microscopical histological score (0-40) of rabbits in control and treatment groups in acetic acid (2%) - induced colitis

▼ *Significant reduction ($0.01 < p < 0.05$) in comparison with the control group*

Discussion

Various animal models have provided a foundation for future investigation into the mechanisms responsible for IBD, which will hopefully result in the development and testing of novel therapeutic regimens⁽¹⁷⁾.

Acetic acid-induced colitis is used widely because of its reproducibility (with lesions occurring in 100% of animals). In addition, it provides an inexpensive model useful in comparing the effectiveness of novel therapeutic agents⁽¹⁸⁾.

Its similarity with human IBD in many aspects make researchers still use it as one of the models of induced colitis.

Pilot studies done prior to the present work governed the selection of the two models of colitis induction particularly the second model, i.e.,

acetic acid (2%) which was used in rabbits for the first time.

In the first model of the present study, ethanol was used in combination with acetic acid in order to decrease the mucosal barrier⁽¹⁹⁾ so that the damaging effect of the acid was found to be more severe and deeper than that induced by acetic acid alone.

Finding an orally effective anti-inflammatory agent is of a major importance since the advantages of oral route are well known. Moreover, selection of such route of administration in the present *in vivo* study could give a chance for the tested agent to act systemically and / or locally at the colon.

Prednisolone, the oral corticosteroid used commonly as a standard therapy to control acute attacks of IBD,⁽³⁾ was used in the