

**Novel Meta-Methoxy Aromatic Sulfonamides: Synthesis,  
Characterization, and Biological Evaluation as  
Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein Inhibitors**

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**Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, 2024**

**Abstract**

Worldwide, the main causes of death are hyperlipidemia, atherosclerosis, coronary heart diseases, and stroke. Inhibition of cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) is a possible strategy to raise high-density lipoprotein cholesterol while lowering low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

Herein, synthesis and *in vitro* biological evaluation of the CETP inhibitory activity of seven *meta*-methoxy substituted sulfonamides **6a-6g** were carried out. Compound **6a** exhibited the best CETP inhibition of 50.5% at 10 $\mu$ M concentration. Interestingly, compound

**6a** has no substitution at the sulfonamido-phenyl ring which leads to the absence of steric shield effect from substitution.

Generally, it was found that the presence of methoxy group at the *meta* position of the thiophenyl ring of the synthesized sulfonamides reduced the CETP inhibitory potential in comparison with other previously studied *meta*-chloro, *meta*-fluoro, and *meta*-trifluoromethyl substituted analogues.

**Keywords:** Atherosclerosis, Cholesteryl ester transfer protein, Inhibitors, Methoxy, Sulfonamides.