

SOME RECENT BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES ON DIARRHEA IN NEWLY BORN CALVES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DNA FRAGMENTATION IN BLOOD

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ABSTRACT

Rectal swabs and blood samples were collected from (100) diarrheic calves and (20) apparently healthy contact calves using sterile cotton swabs, at different farms in Sharkia Governorate. For hematological and biochemical investigations, a total of 20 blood samples with and without EDTA from healthy animals showed negative bacterial isolation (group 1) and 50 blood samples were selected from collected blood samples (100) from animals showed positive bacterial isolation (group 2). Bacteriological examination of fecal samples revealed that *E. coli* was the most prominent cause of calf diarrhea at an incidence of 54.1 %, followed by *Salmonella* species at an incidence of 17.5 % then *Campylobacter* at an incidence of 10.8 %. *Proteus vulgaris* was isolated at an incidence of 10 % then *Pseudomonas* at an incidence of 6.7 %. Serological identification of 65 *E. coli* isolates, revealed that the *E. coli* were typed as O157 (38.5%), O119 (23.1%), O25 (7.7%), O111 (7.7%), O186 (15.4%), and untypable *E. coli* (7.7%). Bacteriological examination revealed the isolation of *Salmonella* from diarrheic calves as well as apparently healthy contact calves. *S. typhimurium* was the most predominant serovars (52.4%) which indicates that *S. typhimurium* is the most predominant serovars causing enteritis in calves. *S. enteritidis* (33.3%) and 3 strains (14.3%) were untypable. Results of antibiogram revealed that, ciprofloxacin, cephalixin and ofloxacin were the most effective antibiotics for treatment of diarrheic calves. Most isolated bacteria showed different degrees of resistance to Ampicillin, Cefotaxime, Gentamycine. PCR results revealed that 16 (88.9%) out of 18 examined *E. coli* strains encoding blaTEM gene while only two (11.1%) strains were negative. The hematological changes revealed that there was a significant decrease in total red blood cells count, platelets and hemoglobin concentration ($p < 0.05$) accompanied by higher values of Total leukocyte count (TLC), neutrophilia with lymphopenia recorded in diarrheic calves in comparison with control. Biochemical analysis of positive cases revealed significant increase ($P < 0.05$) in serum globulin content and decrease in total protein, albumin content, resulting in altered A/G ratio, also there was significant increase in urea, creatinine and potassium accompanied by significant decrease in glucose and sodium. In comparison with control amino acid analysis demonstrated significant ($P < 0.05$) decrease in diseased calves. Inter nucleosomal cleavage of host cell DNA, indicated evidence of apoptosis, there was a direct relationship between DNA fragmentation and malondialdehyde level (MDA) while inverse relation with antioxidants.

Key words: diarrhea, calves, *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, amino acid, DNA fragmentation and blood changes

INTRODUCTION

Calf diarrhea (also known as calf scouring) is a commonly reported disease and a major cause of economic loss to cattle producers.

Calf diarrhea is attributed to both infectious and non-infectious factors multiple enteric pathogens (e.g., viruses, bacteria, and protozoa) are involved in the

development of this disease. Co-infection is frequently observed in diarrheic calves although a single primary pathogen can be the cause in some cases. The prevalence of each of pathogen and disease incidence can vary by geographical location of the farms, farm management practices, and herd size. Bartels *et al.* (2010) and Izzo *et al.* (2011).

Although the cattle industry has made great improvements with herd management, animal facilities and care, feeding and nutrition, and timely use of bio-pharmaceutics, calf diarrhea is still problematic due to the multi-factorial nature of the disease. Prevention and control of calf diarrhea

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should be based on a good understanding of the disease complexities such as multiple pathogens Kaper *et al.* (2004).

Numerous infectious agents have been implicated in calf diarrhea. Bovine practitioners and cattle producers are aware of many enteric pathogens because these primary agents have been known to be involved in calf diarrhea for several decades and still greatly influence current cow-calf operations. The most common cause of neonatal diarrhea is enterotoxigenic E-coli (ETEC) stains that produce the K99 (F5) (5adhesion antigen (commonly referred to as E. coli K99 (+and heat-stable enterotoxin. It should be noted that other patho groups of E. coli, which are usually identified by histopathology, can be missed if the diagnosis focuses on E. coli K99 +alone Nataro and Kaper (1998).

Salmonella enterica colonizes the gastrointestinal tract of clinical salmonellosis. Acute diarrheal disease is most common with *S. typhimurium* and systemic disease is associated with *S. dublin*. Calves less than 3 weeks of age are commonly infected by Salmonella. The lesions frequently observed in affected calves involve the pseudomembrane on the mucosa of the small intestine as well as enlargement of the mesenteric lymph nodes. Infected cattle can serve as a source of zoonosis through food-borne routes or direct contact Sojka *et al.* (1977) and Hughes *et al.* (1971).

A wide range of hosts. *S. entericaserovar Typhimurium* (*S. typhimurium*) and serovar Dublin (*S. dublin*) are the most common etiologic agents that cause salmonellosis in cattle *S. typhimurium* is the most common serotype that affects calves.

Tsukano *et al.* (2015) pointed out that during inflammation and stress in animals amino acids (AA) are used for the synthesis of acute-phase proteins, glucose precursors, plasma proteins, antibodies, free radical scavengers, metabolic cofactors, and hormones. Amino acids are often transported from the muscle to the liver for these purpose, degradation of these amino acids from muscle can also be induced by infection, resulting in further nitrogen loss and muscle wasting (Powanda and Beisel, 2003). Also, as reduced intake is considered a clinical sign of diarrhea (Duff and Galyean 2007), less protein intake via feedstuffs exacerbates the effects of increased nitrogen usage by the body in order to mount an immune response.

Oxidative stress related to diarrhea has been implicated as a major initiator of tissue damages and can affect enzymatic activity, signal transcription and gene expression, especially apoptotic gene Abd-Elrahman (2011). *Enterobacteriaceae* increases the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), high levels of ROS disrupt the inner and outer

mitochondrial membranes, inducing the release of the cytochrome-c protein and activating the apoptosis and consequently increase DNA fragmentation Kresse *et al.* (2007).

During infection, the host produces proteins that are able to chelate metal ions and thus, can restrict the availability of essential metals from invading pathogens. Moreover, the toxicity of metals such as copper can be used as a host defense mechanism to promote bacterial killing. Nutrient limitation by the host and nutrient acquisition by pathogenic bacteria are therefore, crucial processes in the pathogenesis of bacterial infectious diseases, as a result of this competition, bacteria have developed sophisticated acquisition systems to scavenge essential metals from the environment. Moreover, efflux systems are used to eliminate the excess metal ions which might become toxic for the bacterial cell Wakeman and Skaar, (2012).

The present study aimed to:

- Isolation and identification of causative agents of calf diarrhea
- Antibiogram to isolated organisms to choose the most effective treatment.
- Detect of the blaTEM gene among isolated E coli strains using PCR as a recent, rapid and accurate method to avoid some drug resistance in order to facilitate medication of affected calves.
- Find out the effect of calf diarrhea on different hematobiochemical aspect especially DNA fragmentation and amino acids in diarrheic calves

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of samples:

Rectal swabs were collected from (100) diarrheic calves and (20) apparently healthy contact calves using sterile cotton swabs, at different farms of Sharkia Governorate in Egypt. Samples were transferred directly to the laboratory in a separate clean sterile plastic bag, in an ice box and kept in retail package under complete aseptic condition without delay and subjected to required investigations.

For hematological and biochemical investigations ,A total of 20 blood samples were collected with and without EDTA from apparently healthy animals showed negative bacterial isolation (group 1), also, 50 blood samples were selected from (100) collected blood samples with and without EDTA from positive bacterial isolation animals (group 2).

Bacteriological examination:

1- Isolation and identification of E. coli:

All samples were inoculated into tubes of freshly prepared nutrient broth and incubated aerobically at

37°C overnight, followed by subculturing onto MacConkey agar and eosin methylene blue agar plates for 24-48 hours.

Lactose positive colonies were confirmed as *E.coli* according to Gershwin (1990); Koneman *et al.* (1992) and Quinn *et al.* (1994).

Suspected colonies were subjected to further identifications according to (Edwards and Ewing, 1972).

2- Salmonella isolation and identification:

Fecal samples were inoculated into selenit-F and tetrathionate broth for enrichment for 16 h at 37°C. A loopfull of the broth were streaked onto XLD agar, MacConkey agar and SS. agar plates and incubated at 37°C for 37 - 48 h and the suspected colonies were identified morphologically, then biochemically using the API-20E kit system (Biomeraux, France) and serologically according to the Kauffman - white scheme by slide agglutination test using polyvalent and monovalent O antigen (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan, USA) and H antisera (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan, USA). Cultivation and identification were applied.

According to Morifnigo *et al.* (1986) and Chirino-Trejo (1999).

3- Isolation of Campylobacter:

According to Klein *et al.* (2012), fecal samples were enriched in Bolton broth for 48 h at 42°C under microaerophilic conditions (10% CO₂, 5% O₂ and 85% N₂). A loopful of this enrichment was streaked onto modified charcoal cefoperazon deoxycholate agar and a second loopful onto Campy Food Agar. Both plates were incubated at 42°C for 48 h under microaerophilic conditions. Additionally, fecal material without prior enrichment was directly streaked on modified charcoal cefoperazon deoxycholate agar and Campy Food Agar, and incubated at 42°C for 48 h. Morphological typical colonies were differentiated by aerobic incubation.

4- Each fecal sample was also cultured onto 5% sheep blood agar, incubated at 37°C for 24 h and inspected

for the presence of other bacterial pathogens, e.g. *Bacillus* spp., *Corynebacterium* spp., *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa*.

5- Sensitivity test

Antimicrobial agents and media:

The sensitivity test of the isolated organisms to different antimicrobial agents was done using Oxoid discs including 10 mcg ampicillin (AM), 30 mcg cefotaxime (CTX), 5 mcg ciprofloxacin (CIP), 10 mcg gentamycin (GN), 30 mcg cephalaxine (CFX) and 5 mcg ofloxacin (OFF). The media used was Muller Hinton medium. According to WHO (1977).

Test procedure:

The method used was the standard disc diffusion method according to National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS), 2002 and WHO (1977) (standards, percentage of sensitivity was calculated as described by Bauer *et al.* (1966) and Fazlani *et al.* (2001).

Detection of bla TEM gene in isolated E.coli strains by PCR:

Extraction of DNA

It was performed using the QIAamp DNA Mini kit (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH). Briefly, 200 µl of bacterial isolates suspension (18 *E. coli* isolated were incubated with 10 µl of proteinase K and 200 µl of lysis buffer at 56°C for 10 min. After incubation, 200 µl of 100% ethanol was added to the lysate. The samples were then washed and centrifuged following the manufacturer's recommendations. Nucleic acid was eluted with 100 µl of elution buffer provided in the kit.

Quantification of DNA:

Concentration and purity of DNA samples from (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH) kits were determined by measuring absorbance at 260 and 280 nm using an Bio-Rad biophotometer (Biorad-Japan) with each DNA sample diluted 1:100.

Oligonucleotide primers used in cPCR

They have specific sequence and amplify a specific product Metabion (Germany) and Biobasic (Canada).

Table 1: Primers sequences, target gene and amplicon size.

Primer	Sequence	Amplified product	Reference
<i>bla</i> _{TEM}	F:ATCAGCAATAAACCAGC R:CCCCGAAGAACGTTTTC	516 bp	Colom <i>et al.</i> , 2003

PCR amplification:

Preparation of PCR Master Mix according to Emerald Amp GT PCR mastermix (Takara) Code No. RR310Akit.

Table 2: Reaction component of PCR.

Volume/reaction	Component
12.5 μ l	Emerald Amp GT PCR mastermix (2x premix)
4.5 μ l	PCR grade water
1 μ l	Forward primer (20 pmol)
1 μ l	Reverse primer (20 pmol)
6 μ l	Template DNA
25 μ l	Total

Table 3: Cycling conditions of the primers during cPCR Temperature and time conditions of the two primers during PCR according to specific authors and Emerald Amp GT PCR mastermix (Takara) kit.

Gene	Primary denaturation	Secondary denaturation	Annealing	Extension	No. of cycles	Final extension
<i>bla_{TEM}</i>	94°C 5 min.	94°C 30 sec	54°C 45 sec	72°C 45 sec	35	72°C 10 min.

The reaction was performed in an Applied biosystem 2720 thermal cycler.

Analysis of the PCR Products:

The products of PCR were separated by electrophoresis on 1.5% agarose gel (Applichem, Germany, GmbH) in 1x TBE buffer at room temperature using gradients of 5V/cm. For gel analysis, 15 μ l of the product was loaded in each gel slot. A gelpilot 100 bp plus DNA Ladder (Qiagen, Germany, GmbH) was used to determine the fragment sizes. The gel was photographed by a gel documentation system (Alpha Innotech, Biometra) and the data was analyzed through computer software (Automatic Image Capture Software, Protein Simple formerly cell biosciences, USA).

Hematological and Biochemical examination

Whole blood was collected in EDTA vials from both groups for hematological examination according to the method described by Jain (2000) and for determination of DNA fragmentation according to the method of (Perandones *et al.*, 1993).

The collected plasma and serum were kept at -20°C till used. Estimation of glutathione -S-transferase (Habig and Jakoby, 1974), lipid peroxidase (Oh Kawa

et al., 1975) and Superoxide dismutase (Woolliams *et al.*, 1983) were carried out in plasma. The obtained sera were also used for assay of essential aminoacids [threonine (Thr), methionine (Met), Isoleucine (Ilu), Leucine (Leu), Phenylalanine (Phe), histadine (His) lysine (Lys), arginine (Arg) and valine (Val)] and non-essential amino acids [serine (ser), glutamic acid (glu), glycine (gln) alanine (aln) cysteine (Cys) and Tyrosine (Tyr)] (Csomos and Sarkadi 2002) copper and zinc (Mert and Henkin, 1971) vitamin A (Suzuki, and Katoh 1990) vitamin E (Hawk, *et al.*, 1954), total proteins, albumin, glucose, Urea, Creatinine sodium and potassium spectrophotometrically by using standardized test-kits supplied from Bio-Merieux (Bains/France).

Statistical analysis

The mean values obtained from hemograms and biochemical assays of positive samples were compared with results of negative samples using the T- test (Milton and Toskos, 1985). Differences were considered to be statistically significant with values of $P < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Bacteriological findings:

Table 4: Prevalence of bacterial isolates in the examined fecal samples.

Bacterial species	NO.*	Diseased cases		Apparently healthy cases		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>E. coli</i>	120	50	41.7	15	12.5	65	54.1
<i>Salmonella</i>	120	20	16.7	1	0.83	21	17.5
<i>Campylobacter</i>	120	10	8.3	3	2.5	13	10.8
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	120	7	6.7	5	3.3	12	10
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	120	8	6.7	—	—	8	6.7
Total	120	95	80.1	24	20	119	99.2

NO.*: number of examined samples

% : calculated according to the number of examined samples

Table 5: Frequencies and distribution of *E. coli* serotypes recovered from examined fecal samples.

<i>E. coli</i> serotypes	No. of isolates	%
O157	25	38.5
O119	15	23.1
O25	5	7.7
O111	5	7.7
O186	10	15.4
Untypable	5	7.7
Total	65	100

The percentage was calculated according to the number of *E. coli* isolates.

Table 6: Incidence and distribution of *Salmonella* serotypes recovered from examined fecal samples.

<i>Salmonella</i> serotypes	No. of isolates	%
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	11	52.4
<i>S. enteritidis</i>	7	33.3
Untypable	3	14.3
Total	21	100

The percentage was calculated according to the number of *Salmonella* isolates.

Table 7: Sensitivity percentage of bacteria isolated from feces of both diarrheic and apparently healthy calves.

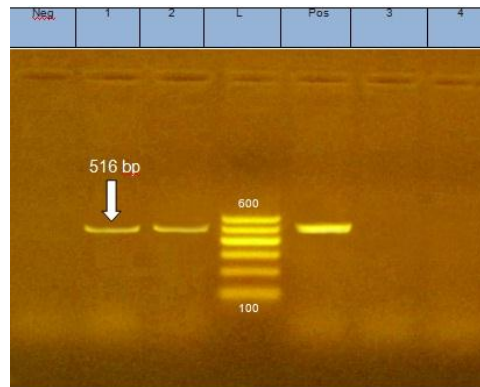
Bacterial species	No. of isolates	Antibiotics tested											
		AM		CFX		CIP		CTX		GN		OFF	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>E. coli</i>	65	0	0	65	100	65	100	25	38	1	0.01	65	100
<i>Salmonella</i>	21	5	23	20	95	19	90.4	13	61	3	14.2	20	95.2
<i>Campylobacter</i>	13	10	76	13	100	13	100	10	77	9	69.2	12	92.3
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	12	6	50	12	100	11	91	10	83.3	5	41.7	12	100
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	8	0	0	8	100	7	87	3	37	1	12	7	87

No = number of sensitive isolate

The percentage was calculated according to the total number of tested strains

Table 8 & fig. 1: PCR results showed the detection of *bla*TEM gene among *E. coli* serotypes.

<i>E. coli</i> serotypes	No. of examined isolates	<i>bla</i> TEM positive strains	<i>bla</i> TEM negative strains
O157	3	3	0
O119	3	3	0
O25	3	2	1
O111	3	2	1
O186	3	3	0
Untypable	3	3	0
Total	18	16	2

**Fig. 1:**

L: ladder 100 bp

Pos: positive control

Neg: negative control

Lane 1 and 2: positive result at fragment size 516

Lane 3 and 4: negative result with no amplification

Table 9: Some hematological parameters in healthy and diseased calves (mean \pm SE).

Parameter	T.RBCs \times ($10^6/\mu\text{l}$)	Hb gm/dl	Platelets ($10^3/\mu\text{l}$)	TLC \times ($10^3/\mu\text{l}$)	lympho (%)	Neutro (%)	Eosino (%)	Mono (%)	Baso (%)
Control	7.72 \pm	11.62 \pm	210 \pm	5.89 \pm	46.22 \pm	44.68	3.16 \pm	3.66 \pm	2.44
Group	0.44	0.36	1.73	0.77	0.06	\pm 0.077	0.005	0.003	\pm 0.12
Infected	6.28* \pm	9.18* \pm	162*	8.23* \pm	39.77* \pm	54.88*	3.08*	3.88	2.66 \pm
Group	0.17	0.27	\pm 0.65	0.58	0.09	\pm 0.074	\pm 0.04	\pm 0.018	0.07

The mean difference is significant at the $P < 0.05$ **Table 10:** Some biochemical parameters in healthy and diseased calves (Mean \pm SE).

Parameter	Total protein (g/dl)	Albumin (g/dl)	Globulin (g/dl)	A/G Ratio	Urea (mg/dl)	Creatinine (mg/dl)	Glucose (mg/dl)	Na (mEq/L)	K (mEq/L)
Control	7.20	3.22	3.98	0.081	16.20	0.89	79.66	145.4	4.80
Group	\pm 0.24	\pm 0.36	\pm 0.19	\pm 0.03	\pm 0.57	\pm 0.005	\pm 0.83	\pm 0.19	\pm 1.73
Infected	6.78*	2.65*	4.13*	0.64*	29.35*	1.43*	44.88*	112.80*	6.60*
Group	\pm 0.17	\pm 0.27	\pm 0.65	\pm 0.02	\pm 0.94	\pm 0.04	\pm 0.48	\pm 0.75	\pm 0.65

The mean difference is significant at the $P < 0.05$ **Table 11:** Amino acids profile in serum of healthy and diseased calves (Mean \pm SE).

Parameters	Thr	Met	Ilu	Leu	Phe	His	Lys	Arg	Val	Ser	Glu	Gln	Aln	Cys	Tyr
Control	2.62	2.45	4.69	6.98	2.92	6.85	3.70	5.62	6.92	5.82	4.86	9.84	10.62	2.68	2.02
Group	\pm 0.01	\pm 0.04	\pm 0.33	\pm 0.41	\pm 0.043	\pm 0.061	\pm 0.11	\pm 0.04	\pm 0.01	\pm 0.06	\pm 0.34	\pm 0.98	\pm 0.64	\pm 0.08	\pm 0.17
Infected		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Group	2.21	1.78	3.25	4.16	1.11	6.65	1.86	4.12	4.28	3.62	3.29	8.11	6.82	2.94	2.45
	\pm 0.18	\pm 0.02	\pm 0.21	\pm 0.09	\pm 0.015	\pm 0.07	\pm 0.04	\pm 0.11	\pm 0.017	\pm 0.14	\pm 0.61	\pm 0.08	\pm 0.52	\pm 0.03	\pm 0.15

The mean difference is significant at the $P < 0.05$

Table 12: DNA fragmentation percentage and some oxidative stress indicators in healthy and diseased calves (Mean \pm SE).

Parameter	DNA fragmentation %	MDA (nmol/ml)	SOD (U/ml) u/l	Glutathion-S-transferase (u/l)	Cu (μ g/dl)	Zn (μ g/dl)	Fe (μ g/dl)	VitA (μ g/dl)	Vit E (μ g/dl)
Control Group	39.80 ± 0.55	16.90 ± 0.36	31.4 ± 0.19	64.80 ± 1.73	28.12 ± 0.06	34.18 ± 0.077	140.13 ± 0.005	33.12 $\pm .003$	3.44 ± 0.12
Infected Group	12.22* ± 0.09	64.82* ± 0.27	19.80* ± 0.75	36.60* ± 0.65	17.77* ± 0.09	25.68* ± 0.074	122.17* ± 0.04	21.72* ± 0.018	2.76* ± 0.07

The mean difference is significant at the $P < 0.05$

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DISCUSSION

Diarrhea is one of the most common diseases reported in calves up to three months old (Svensson *et al.*, 2003). Neonatal calf diarrhea is considered one of the most serious constraints of animal production.

The incidence of calf diarrhea occurs all over the year with some increase in calving season. (Elham *et al.*, 2012).

In this study Bacteriological examination of fecal samples revealed that E coli was the most prominent cause of calf diarrhea at an incidence of 54.1%, followed by Salmonella species at an incidence of 17.5 % then Campylobacter at an incidence of 10.8%. Proteus vulgaris was isolated at an incidence of 10% then Pseudomonas at an incidence of 6.7 %. Our findings are nearly similar to (Elham *et al.*, 2012) who stated that, the total bacteria isolated from faecal samples were E. coli, S.typhimurium, Campylobacter and P. aeruginosa with incidence of 47.5, 9, 7.5 and 4, respectively. E. Coli was the most common bacteria isolated from fecal samples of diarrheic calves, (China *et al.*, 1996 and Harbby, 2002). Also the results agreed with that obtained by El-Hamamy *et al.* (1999), who recorded that cultures of swabs from diarrheic calves revealed that, the predominant isolate was E-coli (52.5%), enterobacter aerogenes (15%), Proteus vulgaris (12.5%) and Salmonella spp.(5%).

Also the results of (Ibrahim, 2007) revealed that 7 of 150 samples were positive for E-coli with an incidence of 24.66%. 13 samples, out of 150 samples 22.7% were positive for Campylobacter; Salmonella were isolated in 22 samples with an incidence of 14.66%.

Serological identification of 65 E. coli isolates, revealed that the isolated E. coli were typed as O157 (38.5%), O119 (23.1%), O25 (7.7), O111 (7.7%), O186 (15.4%), and un typable E. coli isolates (7.7%).

These findings are similar to Elham *et al.* (2012) who concluded that the serological serotyping of 95 E. coli

isolates, revealed that E. coli were typed as K99(21.1%), O157 (17.9%), O111 (9.5%), O125 (11.6%), O119 (15.8%), O26(12.6%), O128 (8.4%) and un typed E. coli (3.2% to %). Also (Tamaki *et al.*, 2005). Stated that the most common E. coli serotypes isolated from diarrheic fecal samples were O119, O111, O126, and O78.

Bacteriological examination revealed the isolation of Salmonella from diarrheic calves as well as apparently healthy contact calves. S.typhimurium was the most predominant serovars (52.4%) which indicates that S.typhimurium is the most predominant serovars causing enteritis in calves. S. enteritidis (33.3%) and 3 strains (14.3%) were untypable. The results agree with the results of (Jones *et al.*, 1988; Segall and Lindberg, 1993; Seleim *et al.*, 2004). Also Moussa *et al.* (2010) collected Fecal samples from diarrheic calves as well as apparently healthy contact calves and showed high incidence of Salmonella serovars 43.52 and 27.69%, respectively. S.typhimurium was the most predominant serovars (17.65 in diarrheic calves and 15.38% in contact apparently healthy calves). while S. enteritidis (8.24 and 4.62 respectively).

Antibiotics should only be used for E. coli and Salmonella infection, after sensitivity test to choose the best drug, as inappropriate use of antibiotics can lead to serious antibiotic resistance problems (Yimer Muktar *et al.*, 2015).

Results of antibiogram revealed that, (ciprofloxacin, cephalaxine and ofloxacin) were the most effective antibiotics for treatment of diarrheic calves. Most isolated bacteria showed different degrees of resistance to Ampicillin, Cefotaxime, Gentamicin.

Elham *et al.* (2012) mentioned that the in vitro sensitivity of recovered isolates of E.coli from diarrheic fecal samples to different antimicrobial agents were highly sensitive to enrofloxacin, flumequine and tetracycline. In contrast, these isolates were found to be resistant to ampicillin, erythromycin, gentamicin, lincomycin and penicillin-G.

The present results agreed with those of Sadiek and Sohair (1999), who studied antibiotic sensitivity of fecal samples from diarrheic calves and found that enrofloxacin was the antibiotic of choice for most bacterial isolates (*E. coli*, *Salmonella* species, and *Proteus* species).

Owing to the resistance pattern of isolated *E. coli* strains against some antibiotics of B lactam group using the traditional disc diffusion antibiogram method, it was a must to detect the blaTEM gene using PCR as a recent, rapid and accurate method to facilitate medication of affected calves.

PCR results revealed that 16 (88.9%) out of 18 examined *E. coli* strains encoding blaTEM gene while only two (11.1%) strains were negative.

Similar results were reported by Aziz *et al.* (2014) who concluded that (90%) of examined *E. coli* strains encoding blaTEM gene.

The hematological changes recorded in diarrheic calves and control calves are depicted in table (9) revealed a significant ($P < 0.05$) decrease in the RBCs number and Hb concentration these results come in accordance with Knowles *et al.* (2000) Hood and Skaar (2012). Anzaldi, and Skaar (2010) suggested that, during infection, hemolytic bacterial cytotoxins damage host cells, leading to damage to the endothelium of the small vessels, followed by disseminated intravascular coagulation and finally, signs of anemia.

Platelet count was considerably lower in calves with diarrhea than in the control group as recorded previously by Sobiech *et al.* (2013) and Gokce *et al.* (2006) pointed out that during bacterial infection thrombocytopenia may be due to platelets destroyed in large number following antigen-antibody reactions on the platelets surface membrane or excessive consumption of platelets to fulfill their normal role in hemostasis occurs during diarrhea.

Moreover, significant leukocytosis may be due to bacterial infection and inflammatory lesions which acted promptly causing neutrophilia with lymphopenia which is characteristic of acute bacterial enteritis. Abdalla *et al.* (2000) and Khan and Zaman (2007).

The results of total serum protein, albumin and globulin values in calves suffering from enteritis (group II), are recorded in tables (10). They revealed a significant ($p < 0.05$) decrease in serum total proteins albumin levels, A/G ratio and significant increase ($p < 0.05$) in serum globulin as recorded previously by Abdalla *et al.* (2000) and Fouad *et al.* (2008). This could be referred to the inflammation or ulceration of gastrointestinal tracts which lead to

impaired absorption of protein as well as increased protein loss. Moreover, destructive effect of bacteria and bacterial toxins on the liver cells, may be attributed to inhibition of its synthesis, its rapid breakdown, Tothova *et al.* (2012) stated that serum albumin is the major negative acute phase protein, during the acute phase response the demand for amino acids for synthesis of the positive acute phase proteins is markedly increased, which necessitates reprioritization of hepatic protein synthesis. Thus, albumin synthesis is down-regulated and amino acids are shunted into synthesis of positive acute phase proteins. Moreover, the increase in serum globulins could be referred to the inflammatory process and the immune response antibodies.

A significant increase ($p < 0.05$) in serum urea nitrogen and serum creatinine values in diarrheic calves was recorded as compared to control. The increase in both the parameters was in consistent with the report by (Ghanem *et al.*, 2012. Nasir *et al.*, 2013 and Singh *et al.*, 2014). The significant increase in serum urea nitrogen and creatinine in the present study was attributable to dehydration, concentration of the plasma solutes as a result of diarrhea, deficit in renal blood perfusion (glomerular filtration rate) and reduced urine formation (Asma *et al.*, 1996), also, it could be attributed to increased utilization of amino acids for production of urea by catabolism of body protein in severe toxic condition (Sreedhar *et al.*, 2013).

Table (10) declared that there was significant decrease in glucose concentration ($p < 0.05$) in diarrheic calves in comparison with the control. This significant decrease come in accordance with Fatma and Kawther (2007) and Singh *et al.* (2014). This significant decrease may be occurred as a result of reduced rate of conversion of lactic acid to glucose, decreased intestinal absorption of glucose from damaged intestinal epithelium and alternation in tissue metabolism caused by decreased blood flow and oxygenation associated with hypovolemic shock low glucose reserve, inhibit glyconeogenesis and decrease glycolysis (Abdalla *et al.*, 2000).

Acute enteric infections are characterized by the rapid development of dehydration and electrolytes imbalance which are believed to be responsible for many of the clinical signs (emaciation, weakness, turgor of the skin, sunken eyes), extreme metabolic acidosis, hemoconcentration and hypofunction of kidneys and liver (Dratwa *et al.*, 2012). The present study revealed significant ($p < 0.05$) decrease in serum sodium and increased serum potassium concentration in diseased calves in comparison with control as recorded previously by Dratwa *et al.* (2012) and Nasir *et al.* (2013). Hyponatremia in diarrheic calves due to an excessive secretion of sodium along with water into intestinal lumen. Hyperkalemia was due to increased potassium retention by kidney and also due

to its movement from intracellular to the extracellular fluid in response to the acidosis as diarrhea is often accompanied by a metabolic acidosis which is a result of the loss of carbohydrates and also from organic acid accumulation (Seifi *et al.*, 2006).

Table (11) demonstrated that serum amino acid analysis showed significant ($P < 0.05$) decrease in serum essential amino acids [threonine (Thr), methionine (Met), Isoleucine (Ilu), leucine (Leu), Phenyl alanine (Phe), lysine (Lys), arginine (Arg) and valine (Val)] and non-essential amino acids [serine (ser), glutamic acid (glu), glycine (gln) and alanine (aln)] in calves with diarrhea compared with normal calves, these results come in accordance with (Waggoner *et al.*, 2009 and Tsukano *et al.*, 2015).

The observed decline in Met in our study may be due to an increase in Met transsulfuration, because metabolic demand for Cys and S-adenosylmethionine increases during inflammation (Li *et al.*, 2007). Cysteine is required for the production of acute-phase proteins production of the free radical scavenger, glutathione, (Wu *et al.*, 2004), and production of cytokines involved in the immune response are stimulated by S-adenosylmethionine (Grimble, 2006) Also, decreases in plasma Leu and Ile could be because lymphocytes preferentially utilize the branched-chain AA during inflammation as substrates for protein synthesis (i.e., antibody production) or energy production (Calder, 2006). Glutamine is synthesized from glutamate and ammonia by glutamine synthetase so the significant decrease in glutamic acid consequently decrease the synthesis of glutamine (Carneiro *et al.*, 2003).

The amino acid glutamine is the fundamental respiratory fuel for the small intestine and has been classified as a conditional essential amino acid. Glutamine maintain the intestinal immunologic barrier, since it has been shown to increase the intestinal immunoglobulin A levels and to reduce bacterial translocation, which it reduces the incidence of bacteremia infections. In addition, glutamine has also been postulated as a regulator of intracellular kinases, apoptosis, cell proliferation and redox status, (Wischmeyer *et al.*, 2001). Glutamine is a precursor for nucleotide synthesis, serves as a substrate for hepatic gluconeogenesis, and is an important nutrient for the renal handling of ammonia. It is also an important fuel source for cells that rapidly turn over, including GI epithelia, lymphocytes, fibroblasts, and reticulocytes (Carneiro *et al.*, 2003).

Results shown in table (12) revealed significant ($P < 0.05$) increase in DNA fragmentation percentage and MDA level accompanied with significant decrease in some enzymatic antioxidant (glutathione-S-transferase and SOD) and non-enzymatic antioxidants (Su, Fe, Zn Vit A and E) concentration

in the affected calves compared to control group. Oxidative stress related to diarrhea has been implicated as a major initiator of tissue damages and can affect enzymatic activity, signal transcription and gene expression, especially apoptotic gene (Abd-Elrahman 2011) Since SOD degrades the superoxide into oxygen and hydrogen peroxide which are less toxic substances its low level leads to accumulation of oxidant substances and free radical that caused cellular damage to the intestinal lining mucosa It could also a result of hypocupremic occurring in diarrhea where Cu is the major activator of SOD (Dupont *et al.*, 2011).

Apoptosis is a non-inflammatory response to tissue damage characterized by a series of morphological and biochemical changes, fragmentation of genomic DNA into multimers of 180–200 bp is one of the feature of apoptosis (Rohwer and Azam. 2000), the significant increase in DNA fragmentation percentage in infected calves in comparison with healthy calves may be due to high concentration of the thiol-activated enterotoxins produced by *Enterobacteriaceae* increases the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which would contribute to toxin-induced inflammation and lysis of leukocytes before triggering apoptosis Barnes *et al.* (2001). However, Moss *et al.* (2000) reported that bacteria kills macrophages and epithelial cells by secreting adenylatecyclase-haemolysin toxin, which increases cAMP levels, an increase in the intracellular concentration of cAMP leads to apoptosis of host cells.

(Wischmeyer *et al.*, 2001) stated that glutamine has also been postulated as a regulator of intracellular kinases, apoptosis, so the significant decrease in glutamine as recorded in table (12) increase the DNA fragmentation in infected calves as glutamine up-regulates antiapoptotic proteins and down-regulates proapoptotic proteins so the significant decrease in glutamine induces apoptosis by caspase-3 and caspase-8 sequential activation in T lymphocyte (Carneiro *et al.*, 2006), Another potential mechanisms of Gln action is the pathway of glutathione, an antioxidant compound that detoxifies reactive oxygen species and has potent anti apoptotic effects (Mates *et al.*, 2002). The amide nitrogen of glutamine is essential for purine and pyrimidine biosynthesis (Evans *et al.*, 2005).

The significant decrease in Fe, Cu, Zn, Vit A and E come in accordance with Ghanem *et al.* (2012) Tajik and Nazifi (2013) The significant decrease ($P < 0.05$) in these minerals and vitamins might be attributed to decrease in absorption of food nutrient through the intestine and losses in feces and reservoir in the liver will be considerably reduced (Khan *et al.*, 2009). (Anzaldi, and Skaar 2010) pointed out that the significant decrease in iron in infected calves may

be due to pathogenic bacteria use several strategies to acquire iron to multiply in infected cells, during infection, hemolytic bacterial cytotoxins damage host cells, leading to the release of ferritin, this iron is carried out by secreted bacterial siderophores (low-molecular-mass chelators) that specifically bind Fe^{+3} and transport it into the cytoplasm leading to reduction of the iron in serum infected calves. Moreover, low plasma zinc concentration may be due to losses of this electrolyte through the digestive tract, increased zinc requirements for immune system and also utilization of its stores in tissues for synthesis of antioxidative enzymes (Ranjan *et al.*, 2006).

Deficiency of vit. A is characterized by degeneration and drying of the mucosal epithelium of the intestinal tract, vitamin A-deficient calves suffered from depressed activity of natural killer cells, decreased antibody production, decreased responsiveness of lymphocytes to mitogenic stimulation, and increased susceptibility to infection (Rajaraman *et al.*, 1998). The significant decrease in vit. E may be attributed to stress condition and increase of its uptake in response to oxidative stress as vit E acts as a chain-breaking antioxidant, neutralizing free radicals and preventing oxidation of lipids within membranes (Weiss 2005).

CONCLUSION

Antibiotics should only be used for E. coli and Salmonella infection, after sensitivity test to choose the best drug, as inappropriate use of antibiotics can lead to serious antibiotic resistance problems.

Detect of the blaTEM gene using PCR as a recent, rapid and accurate method is very important to facilitate medication of diarrheic calves.

Biochemical results showed that bacterial infection causes deficiency in most essential amino acids increase fragmentation of DNA and production of more ROS, impaired fluid electrolyte and altered blood parameters Thus, these parameters should be used as a useful tool for diagnosis, prognosis, and evaluation of the therapy applied and should be monitored during the treatment of calves.

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بعض الدراسات البكتريولوجية والكيميائية الحيوية الحديثة على الاسهال في العجول حديثي الولادة مع الإشارة بوجه خاص الى تفكك الحمض النووي في الدم

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في هذه الدراسة تم تجميع عدد ١٠٠ مسحة شرجية وكذلك عينات دم من عجول تعاني من الاسهال وايضا ٢٠ مسحة شرجية من عجول اخرى سليمة ظاهريا من مزارع مختلفة بمحافظة الشرقية تم ايضا تجميع عينات دم وسيرم من كلا المجموعتين. وظهر الفحص البكتريولوجي عزل ميكروبات الالاي كولاى بنسبة ٥٤.١% والسلمونيلا بنسبة ١٧.٥٠% والكامبيلوباكتر بنسبة ١٠.٨% والبروتيااس فلجارس بنسبة ١٠% والسيدوموناس ٦.٧% وكان التصنيف السيروولوجي لميكروبات الالاي كولاى المعزولة هو O₁₅₇ بنسبة ٣٨.٥% O₁₁₉ بنسبة ٢٣.١% و O₂₅ بنسبة ٧.٧% و O₁₁₁ بنسبة ٧.٧% و O₁₈₆ بنسبة ١٥.٤% والغير مصنفة بنسبة ٧.٧% واثبت التصنيف السيروولوجي لميكروب السلمونيلا ان السلمونيلا تيفينوريوم بنسبة ٥٢.٤% و السلمونيلا انترتيدسبنسبة ٣٣.٣% و٣.٠% عترات غير مصنفة بنسبة ١٤.٣% وفحص نتائج اختبار الحساسية كانت المضادات الحيوية (السيروفلوكساسين والسيفالوكسين والوفلوكساسين) الاكثر كفاءة بينما كانت هناك درجات متفاوتة من المقاومة للامبسلين والسيفوتاكزيم والجنتاميسين. ووضحت نتائج ال PCR ان ٨٨.٩% من عترات الالاي كولاى المعزولة ايجابية لجين blaTEM و ١١.١% سلبية. وتم اختيار ٥٠ عينة من العينات الاكثر ايجابية وكذلك العينات السليمة لقياس التغيرات الكيميائية والهيماطولوجية التي حدثت بها. أظهر الفحص الخلوي للدم نقصا معنويا في كل من عدد الكريات الحمراء، نسبة الهيموجلوبين والصفائح الدموية مصحوبا بزيادة معنوية في العدد الكلي لكرات الدم البيضاء وقد اظهر العد النوعي لها زيادة معنوية في النيتروفيل مصحوبا بنقص معنوي في الخلايا للمفاوية في العجول المصابة بالاسهال. اظهر التحليل الكيميائي نقص معنوي في مستوى الاحماض الامينية في مصل العجول المصابة بالاسهال بالفارثة بالعجول السليمة. كما اظهرت الفحوصات المعملية بالدم زيادة معنوية في مستوى المألون داي الدهايد ، نسبة تفكك الحمض النووي مصحوبة بنقصا معنويا في مستوى الجلوتاثيون المختزل ، انزيم سوبر اكسيد نيزميوتاز ، فييتامين أ ، فييتامين هـ، النحاس، الحديد والزنك . اما التحليل البيوكيميائي فقد أظهر نقصا معنويا في مستوى الألبومين والبروتين الكلي والجلوكوز والصوديوم بالإضافة الي الزيادة المعنوية في كل من مستوى الجلوبيولين واليوريا والكرياتينين والبوتاسيوم.