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بعض الدراسات على التهاب الضرع الخفي في الأبقار

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استخدم اختبار شامل واختبار فريزو لاكتشاف مرض الضرع الخفي في ١١٢ بقسرة فريزيان وقد أثبتت النتائج أن درجة الاعتماد على اختبار شامل في تشخيص هذا المرض أعلى من اختبار فريزو •

أما بالنسبة للميكروبات التي تم عزلها وهي الميكروب السبحي اجالاكتيا وديجالاكتيا والميكروب العنقودي الذهبي والشيرشيات القولونية وقد كانت درجسة حساسيتها معمليا للمضادات الحيوية هي جنتاماسين نيوماسين وبنسلين كاناماسين واستربتوماسين على التوالي والاختلافات في تأثير المضادات الحيوية على الحيوان نفسه وداخل المعمل قد تم أخذها في الاعتبار وقد نوقشت هذه النتائج •

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**SOME STUDIES ON SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS  
IN DAIRY CATTLE**  
(With 4 Tables)

By  
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(Received at 1/11/1987)

**SUMMARY**

Schalm and Freiso tests were used as a routine tests for the detection of subclinical mastitis amongst dairy herd of 112 Friesian cows. was found that the reliability of Schalm test (96.3%) was superior than Frieso test (89.5%).

The isolated micro-organisms (Strept. agalactiae, Strept dysagalactiae, Staph. aureus and E. coli) were sensitive to the following antibiotics in descending order: Gentamycin, Neomycin, penicillin, Kanamycin, and Streptomycin. Variation in the vitro and in vivo action of antibiotics was encountered, and the results are discussed.

**INTRODUCTION**

Subclinical mastitis act as an obscure infection hence it is necessary to detect the disease as early as possible because of its public health and economic importance (ANDBERG and WEIRETHER, 1944 and MUNRO, et al. 1984).

the development of body-cell screening field tests, help in the quick detection of pathological changes associated with inflammation in the quarter from which tested milk was drawn and thus the adequate method needed to cope with periodic whole sale herd testing was introduced. Application of these tests offers a potent tool to aid in selection of cows for either production or therapy (KHALIL, et al. 1972).

The indiscriminate use of antibiotics in the treatment of mastitis as well as in other bacterial diseases may cause the development of strains that are resistant to one or more of these antibiotic. For this reason, it is advisable to carry out the in vitro sensitivity test before clinical application since it would be of value in choosing the suitable antibiotic (FARRAG and OOF, 1967). On the other hand when interpreting antibiotic sensitivity results, one should remain aware that sensitivity in the laboratory does not always indicate the relative effectiveness of drug when infused into an infected quarter, (PHILPOT, 1969), since this relationship is depending on many factors that take place inside the mammary gland such as pH, tissue protein binding, and milk components as calcium (DAVIDSON, 1980).

Therefore the aim of this work is to evaluate the efficiency of Schalm and Frieso tests in detection of subclinical mastitis as well as to try the treatment after application of sensitivity test.

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**MATERIAL and METHODS****Samples:**

Milk samples were collected from 112 of apparently normal quarters milking Friesian cows belonging to Raas-El-Soda dairy farm of the Ministry of Defense at Alexandria.

**Chemical tests:**

Chemical testing of apparently normal quarter milk samples by Schalm test (SCHALM, et al. 1971) and Frieso test (according to instruction of the manufacture supplied by Wellcome).

**Bacteriological examination:** Each milk sample was collected aseptically in sterile screw capped bottle and incubated at 37°C for 12hr, then centrifuged for 5 minutes at 1500 RPM. Loopfulls of the sediment were streaked on blood agar, MacConkey's agar media and Edwards medium and incubated at 37°C for 24hrs - 5 days. Pure colonies were identified according to CRUICKSHANK, et al. (1975).

**Sensitivity test:**

Sensitivities of the isolated mastitis pathogens were tested against five antibiotics: penicillin (10 u.), Streptomycin (10 Ug), Kanamycin (30 Ug), Neomycin (30 Ug) and Gentamycin (10 Ug).

**Treatment:**

were applied according to the results of the in vitro sensitivity tests. 89 cows received Gentamycin 80mg dissolved in 10 ml. normal saline solution and infused intramammary twice daily for 5 days. Also 6 animals received Neomycin 500 mg quarter dissolved in 10 ml. saline and infused intramammary for 3 days.

Success of treatment was depending on the negative results of milk culture 14 days treatment.

**RESULTS**

The reliability of the Schalm and Frieso tests and the percentage agreement of its results as compared to the bacteriological findings are recorded in table (1 & 2).

The sensitivity of isolated micro-organisms to certain antibiotic is recorded in table (3).

The results of relationship between the in vitro and the in vivo sensitivity test are recorded in tables (3 & 4).

**DISCUSSION**

Mastitis is considered the main problem to our dairy industry, causing heavy losses every year. Through, in a majority of cases, the aetiology of mastitis is common to staphylococcal and strepto-coccal organisms, which are amenable to treatment with penicillin and streptomycin, it emerges out as a problem because it is diagnosed very late, with further complications and induration of udder tissues resulting in the complete loss of udder. The only solution to prevent this loss is to detect the disease at an early stage and to treat with proper remedies (DEORE and KHANDE, 1972).

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These results were agreement with CHAKRABORTY and HAZARIKA (1977), RINDSING, *et al.* (1979) and EGAN (1982), all of them approved that the agreement between positive schalm test and bacteriological isolation is high.

On contrary, such findings were disagreement with that obtained by FRUGANT and VALENTE (1980) and NARENDRA, *et al.* (1982), they consider schalm test with limited value for combating subclinical mastitis and the agreement between the test and bacteriological isolateion was low.

The results of two tests obtained in our study means that, there is no one test could be depend completely upon as some cases escapes from being detected by any test. For this reason, we must seek for another more reliable field test or retesting all the animals periodically at one month intervals.

The results of sensitivity tests of the organisms isolated to antibiotics showed that, the most effective antibiotic was Gentamycin. It was effective on (69.4%), then Neomycin (62.7%), penicillin (53.7%), kanamycin (40.3%) and streptomycin (31.3%). The superior effect of Gentamycin than other antibiotics might be due to the fact that Gentamycin seldom used as a treatment for mastitis in contrast to other antibiotics which most frequently used and may lead to the development of resistant strain.

The results of tables (3 & 4) showed indefinite relationship between *in vitro* and *in vivo* sensitivities, which was demanding the awareness of PHILPOT (1969), as this relationship was depending on many factors (DAVIDSON, 1980).

It is concluded that the *in vitro* sensitivities may be expensive, beside being inconvenient to culture all quarters but it would be more effective if conducted on several representative isolates each time a herd is cultured for the selection of antibiotic of low probability of resistance to the suspected pathogenic organism that cause subclinical mastitis.

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Table (1)  
Reliability of schalm test as compared to bacteriological results

Scores	No. of samples	Bacteriological results		Agreement %
		+ve	-ve	
-	278	2	276	99.3
+	62	48	14	79.7
++	54	54	-	100
+++	33	33	-	100
Total	427	137	-	

Reliability (96.3%).

Table (2)  
Reliability of Frieso test as compared to bacteriological results

Scores	No. of samples	Bacteriological results		Agreement %
		+v	-ve	
-	283	19	264	93.3
+	43	20	23	46.5
++	38	36	2	94.7
+++	63	62	1	98.4
Total	427	137		

Reliability (89.5%).

- negative + weak positive.

++ moderate positive. +++ strong positive/

Reliability % =  $\frac{\text{No. of true positive samples} + \text{No. of true negative samples}}{\text{total No. of samples}} \times 100\%$

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Table (3)  
The sensitivity of isolated Microorganisms to certain antibiotic

Antibiotic	Strept. agalactiae (70)	Strept. dysgalactiae (14)	Staph. aureus (40)	E. coli (10)	Total No. of pathogen sensitive to antibiotic	%
	- + ++ +++	- + ++ +++	- + ++ +++	- + ++ +++		
Penicillin (10 u)	20 17 33	11 3 -	15 3 15 9	10 - -	72	53.7
Streptomycin (10 ug)	58 5 7	8 2 4 -	21 3 3 13	- - - 10	42	31.3
Kanamycin (30 ug)	42 19 9	11 1 2 -	26 - 3 11	- - 4 6	54	40.3
Neomycin (30 ug)	12 25 33	3 5 6 -	18 12 7 -	- - 9 1	84	62.7
Gentamycin (10 ug)	19 12 39	6 4 2 2	8 4 10 18	- - 3 7	93	69.4

- negative + weak positive ++ moderate sensitive +++ highly sensitive.

Table (4)  
Results of treatment of subclinically mastitic quarters according to sensitivity tests

Isolated organisms	Antibiotic	No. of infected quarters	Cured post. treatment	
			No.	%
Strept agalactiae	Gentamycin	51	49	96.1
Strept. dys	Neomycin	6	3	50
Staph. aureus	Gentamycin	28	23	82.1
E. coli	Gentamycin	10	10	100