Effect of Yogurt and *Bifidobacterium* on *Cryptosporidium parvum* Infection In Experiential Infected Mice

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**Abstract**

This study aimed to collect 150 feces samples from calves suffering severe diarrhea, then isolate and purify *Cryptosporidium parvum* oocysts from samples containing it. These oocysts were used to induce experimental infection in immunosuppressed mice, then the mice treated with *Bifidobacterium* bacteria, its supernatant, and local yogurt were used for bacterial isolation.

This study showed that the local yogurt was the best treatment which led to stop oocyst shedding from the mice in the 8th day after treatment under sufficient treatment (89.72%), at the same time, the mice treated with bacteria stopped the oocyst shedding in the 9th day with sufficient treatment (81.40%), while its supernatant were stopped the oocysts shedding in the 10th day with sufficient treatment (43.4%).

**Key words:** *Cryptosporidium parvum* - *Bifidobacterium* - *Lactobacilli* - probiotic

**Introduction**

*Cryptosporidium parvum* is a waterborne protozoan parasite that causes acute diarrhea in humans and domestic animals [1]. Infection occurs when oocysts in food, water, or the environment are ingested, the exposure to reduce conditions or pancreatic enzyme & bile salts causes oocyst to excyst and release four sporozoites that invade the host's intestinal epithelium and undergo both asexual and sexual multiplication cycles. The life cycle produces new oocysts that are shed in large quantities in the feces [2]. Management of cryptosporidiosis, the disease caused by *C. parvum* infection, has been hampered by the lack of effective drugs.

*Bifidobacterium* are normal inhabitants of healthy human and animal intestinal tracts. Tissier was the first to promote the therapeutic use of *Bifidobacteria* for treating infant diarrhea by giving them large doses of *Bifidobacteria* orally.

Probiotics are viable non-pathogenic microorganisms that, when ingested, have beneficial effects in the prevention and treatment of pathological conditions [3].

*Lactobacilli* and *Bifidobacteria* are lactic acid bacteria (LBA) commonly found in fermented dairy products such as yogurt which exhibit probiotic properties [4,5]. *Bifidobacteria* produce antimicrobial compounds that can inhibit growth of strains of *E. coli*. 


Pseudomonas spp and Salmonella [6,7]. Bifidobacteria have also been found to aid in anti-tumor activity in the host by stimulating the host’s immune response, lowering cholesterol level, synthesizing vitamins, thiamin, as well as folic acid. [8].

The aim of this research was to study the effect of bacterial cell-free supernatants from Bifidobacterium and yogurt on C. parvum in immune deficiency mice.

Materials and Methods

Feces Samples

One hundred fifty feces samples were collected from calves suffering from severe diarrhea, from Al-Eshaki calves farm in Al-Eshaki district. Fecal samples of animal’s rectum were collected directly and save it in tightened plastic cold container till arrive to the lab.

Microscopic examination

Glass slides were prepared from each fecal sample by direct smear method, the positive slide fixed by methanol and stained by modified cold Zehil Neilsen stain according to Beaver and Jung methods [9], then examined under oil immersion (X1000) to detect the presence of oocyst.

Isolation and purification of Cryptosporidium oocyst.

The oocyst were isolated and purified from the positive sample by using sucrose flotation method followed by Ungar et.al. [10] as a followed:
- Emulsify 1gm of feces in 10ml of normal saline.
- Centrifuge for 1 minute.
- Add 10 ml of saturated sucrose solution.
- Centrifuge then collected the supernated.
- Washing by normal saline several times.
- Purified oocysts were kept at 4°C until use.

Cryptosporidium oocyst preparation.

About 10 ml of C. oocyst suspension which was isolated as described above, were put in clean centrifuge tube and centrifuged at (700 x) for 10 min, and then the supernatant was decanted.

- The pellet of oocysts were suspended in PBS and oocysts were counted and the number were adjusted at (1x10⁶) oocyst / ml and then inoculated orally by using stomach tube to cause infection into mice.

- Preparation of Bifidobacterium and supernatants.

Bifidobacterium was isolated from probiotic yogurt available in local markets. Re-detected according to Wood and Holzapfel method [11].

- Then (1x10⁵) cell/ml of Bifidobacterium suspension and its supernatants were prepared according to Contreras et.al. methods [12].

Animals:

Male white Swiss mice were obtained from medical college –Al-Nahrein university. Their ages were between 11-16 weeks with weights between 22-25 gm. Mice feces was examined before starting experiment to insure the intestinal vacancy of parasitic infections.
Experimental Design

Forty eight mice were immunosuppressed by injection with (0.1)ml/mice/day of dexamethazone according to Regh [13]. Then divided into 4 groups each containing 6 mice.

* Group 1 (G1):

The mice of the first group were given 0.1ml of suspension of *Bifidobacterium* which contain \((1\times10^8)\) cell/ml for (10) days by using stomach tube. The dose is determined according to Alak *et.al* [14]. Then inoculated with \((1\times10^4)\) oocysts inoculation with *Bifidobacterium* continued till the end of experimental period.

* Group 2 (G2):

The mice of the 2nd group were inoculated with 0.1ml of bacterial supernatants for (10) days. Then each mouse inoculated with \((1\times10^4)\) oocysts. Inoculation with bacterial supernatants continued till the end of experimental period.

* Group 3 (G3):

Each mouse was inoculated with 0.1ml of probiotic yogurt which was used previously in bacterial isolation for (10) days. Then each mouse was inoculated with \((1\times10^4)\) oocysts, their feeding with yogurt continued till the end of experimental period.

* Group 4 (G4):

Mice in this group were inoculated with 0.1ml of PBS for (10) days, then inoculated with suspension C. oocyst which contain \((1 \times 10^5)\) oocysts/ml inoculation the PBS continued till the end of experimental period as a control group.

- During experiment the following data had been noticed.
  1- recording any clinical clear sign.
  2- recording in perpant period.
  3- feces examination to calculate of oocyst in one gram, according to Ryan *et.al.* method [15].
  4- sufficient treatment for bacterial *Bifidobacterium* supernatant and yogurt was measured according to Xiao *et.al.* method [16].

**Sufficient treatment %** = \(\frac{\text{mean number of oocyst in 1gm of feces of control group}}{\text{mean number of oocyst in 1gm of feces of treated group}} \times 100\)

**Statistical analysis**

Data are reported as mean ±. Standard deviation.
Result and Discussion

In this study we didn’t record any clinical signs in infected and treated group, while prepant period recorded in all infected mice was between (3-4) days for all groups. The results in Table -1- showed that the numbers of ooocyst in G1 and G3 were similar which reach (400) ooocyst /gm at first day, while different in G2 and G4 which reach (516.66) and (633.33) ooocyst / gm respectively.

Re-detected Table -2 showed the sufficient treatment for three groups, noticed that the sufficient treatment for yogurt was high which reached (89.72%), followed by Bifidium bacteria that reached (81.43%), while the supernatant sufficient treat was the lowest reaching (43.4%) only.

We should notice that the sufficient treatment calculated depended on the average shedding ooocyst through the treatment period without taking in mind the time used by substance to stop shedding the ooocyst totally.

In this study, we investigated the effect of administration of probiotic bacteria on the development and progression of experimental infection in mice were fed daily with \((1\times10^8)\) cell/ml of Bifidium bacteria, its supernatant and yogurt starting (10 days) before the infection until the spontaneous clearance of the parasite.

Our results showed that daily administration of yogurt and Bifidium bacteria was able to eradicate the parasite in mice, but the yogurt was more efficient than bacteria because the yogurt contains many types of bacteria like Bifidium and lactic acid bacteria (LAB) (Lactobacillus acidophilus and L. veuteri) which exhibit probiotic properties [17]. Also microbial balance is an important factor in the maintenance of intestinal homeostasis and yogurt or fermented milk supplementation has been proposed to control diarrheal disease [18].

In fact, Lactobacillus acidophilus and L. veuteri have shown to reduce the duration and number of C. parvum ooocyst shed in feces of experimentally infected mice [19,20,21], which suggested that certain LAB may possess potential therapeutic properties against C. parvum [22], and that may make clear the high sufficient treatment of yogurt.

Faster et al. [23] found that Lactobacilli and Bifidobacterium & their supernatant effect on the viability of C. parvum ooocysts. These bacterium may still have potential for therapeutic use against C. parvum as suggested by the ability undiluted B. longum supernatant to significantly reduce ooocyst viability [24].

Administration of mixture of Bifidobacterium spp or L. acidophilus to pigs positively affected the elimination of cryptosporidium ooocyst from feces and improved systemic metabolism and composition of the intestinal micro flora [25].

The protective mechanism that these Bifidobacterium confer against cryptosporidium and the nature and identity of the factors involved requires further study both invitro and invivo.

References


J. Infect Dis.150, 768-775.


reduced intestinal shedding of Cryptosporidium parvum oocysts in immunodeficient C57BL/6 mice. Cell.Mol.Biol. 45, 855-863.


Table (1): Number of *C. parvum* oocystes in treatment & control groups ± standard deviation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day after treatment groups</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>1166.66</td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>3030</td>
<td>19.33.3</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>166.66</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supernatant</td>
<td>5166</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>4033.33</td>
<td>49.50</td>
<td>55.16.66</td>
<td>4166.66</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>5150</td>
<td>5150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G2</td>
<td>10.327</td>
<td>63.24</td>
<td>18.618</td>
<td>18.708</td>
<td>116.90</td>
<td>163.29</td>
<td>141.42</td>
<td>141.42</td>
<td>104.88</td>
<td>104.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogurt</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1433.33</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>885.1666</td>
<td>73.33</td>
<td>51.66</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>63.33</td>
<td>2516.66</td>
<td>5616.66</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>8233.33</td>
<td>51.800</td>
<td>55.700</td>
<td>97.30</td>
<td>10433.33</td>
<td>10433.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G4</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
<td>±</td>
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</table>

Table (2): Sufficient treatment for treatment groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of treatment</th>
<th>Used Dose</th>
<th>Percent of treatment efficiency (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Bifidium</em> bacteria</td>
<td>(1 x 10^8) cell/ml</td>
<td>81.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supernatant</td>
<td>0.1 ml</td>
<td>43.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogurt</td>
<td>0.1 ml</td>
<td>89.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
تأثير اللبن المحلي و بكتريا Bifidobacterium في طفيلي الأبواغ

الخبيثة Cryptosporidium parvum في الفئران المصابة تجريبيا

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الخلاصة

تضمنت الدراسة جمع 150 عينة براز من عجل مصابة بالإسهال، ثم تم عزل وتنقيه أكياس بيض من عينات البراز الحاوية عليها، واستعملت أكياس البيض لإحداث إصابة في الفئران المصابة بـ Cryptosporidium parvum طفيلي [yogurt] الذي عزلت منه Bifidium وروا شحماً واللبن المحلي [yogurt] الذي عزلت منه البكتريا.

أظهرت هذه الدراسة أن اللبن المحلي هو الأفضل في المعالجة، إذ أدى إلى توقف الفئران عن طرح أكياس البيض Bifidium في اليوم الثامن بعد العلاج وبكفاءة علاجية (89.72%)، بينما توقفت الفئران المعالجة بخلايا البكتريا في اليوم التاسع وبكفاءة علاجية (81.43%). أما الفئران المعالجة بروا شح البكتريا عن طرح أكياس البيض فتوقفت في اليوم العاشر وبكفاءة علاجية (43.40%).

Cryptosporidium parvum - Lactobacilli - probiotic - Bifidobacteria -

الكلمات المفتاحية :