

## A STUDY OF THE ANTICOCCIDIAL EFFECTS OF CLOPIDOL AND GARLIC POWDER ON *EIMERIA*-INFECTED BROILERS

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### ABSTRACT

This work was carried out to compare between the anticoccidial efficacy of clopidol and garlic powder. Three groups of one day old Hubbard chicks each of 30 birds were used in this study. The 1<sup>st</sup> group received only basal ration (control). The second group received clopidol 125 mg/ kg B.W. The third group received garlic powder 5 gram /kg B.W. Birds in all groups were infected with a field stain of *Eimeria* spp. (50.000 oocysts / bird) at 21 days of age. Mortality rate and clinical signs of coccidiosis were recorded. Also, oocyst count/gm faeces, body weight gain and feed conversion were measured at 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> day after challenge. Five birds in each group were killed one week post infection and lesion score was determined. Blood samples were collected from birds of each group at the end of experiment for detection of serum levels of AST, ALT, creatinine and uric acid. The obtained data demonstrated that administration of clopidol or garlic powder evoked a significant decrease in mortality rate, oocyst count/gm droppings, lesion score and clinical signs of coccidiosis, compared with infected non treated group. Also, adding of clopidol or garlic powder improved the performance of the birds. The serum level of AST, ALT, creatinine and uric acid was decreased by both treatment. It was noticed that addition of garlic powder induce more prominent effects than clopidol in improving the feed conversion (at 21 day post infection) and serum creatinin level and decreasing the mortality rate. On the other hand, clopidol treated group had a lower oocysts count/ gm droppings (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> week post infection) compared with other groups.

**Key words:** Anticoccidial, Clopidol, Garlic Powder, *Eimeria*-Infected, Broilers.

### INTRODUCTION

Coccidiosis remains one of the most expensive and common diseases of poultry in spite of advances in chemotherapy, management, nutrition and genetics. (Cox, 1998 and Ernik and Bedrnik, 2001). It leads to the extensive destruction of the intestinal epithelium which results in reduced food efficiency and body weight gain, as well as a temporary reduction in egg production (Min *et al.*, 2004 and Dalloul and Lillehoj 2005). This has a considerable economic loss at the level of poultry industry.

Clopidol is one of the anticoccidial drugs acts by inhibiting coccidial respiration by interfering with cytochrome-mediated electron transport in the parasites mitochondria (Fry and Williams, 1984; Long 1993; Adam, 2001 and Walter, 2008). This was confirmed by Sevcik and Danek (1972) who found that, the number of oocysts excreted in the faeces of birds treated with clopidol was much lower than in

the control one. Moreover the authors mentioned that, the higher the dosage of clopidol, the lower oocysts count. This was also reported by Bahadoran *et al.* (2013).

There are numerous reports indicating the efficacy of garlic in the prevention and treatment of a variety of diseases and for validating its traditional uses. For instance, garlic has been described to exhibit antimicrobial activity (Chowdhury *et al.*, 1991; Yoshida *et al.*, 1998; Fleischauer *et al.*, 2000), antitumor activity (Sundaram and Milner, 1996; Karasaki *et al.*, 2001), as well as antithrombotic, antiarthritic, hypolipidemic, and hypoglycemic activities (Duraka *et al.*, 2002; Kumar *et al.*, 2003). Moreover, garlic has been reported to be effective against diverse parasites such as *Amoeba* (Peyghan *et al.*, 2008), *Leishmania* (Ghazanfari *et al.*, 2006), *Trypanosoma* (Nok *et al.*, 1996) *Cryptosporidium* (Wahba, 2003) and coccidiosis (Worku *et al.* 2009; Dkhil *et al.*, 2011 and Pourali, *et al.* 2014).

At the present study, the anticoccidial effects of clopidol and garlic were evaluated in broilers.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Drug

Clopidol was used in the form of a pharmaceutical preparation Lopidolmix® (registered by Atco – Pharma). Each 1 kg contains clopidol 250 gm.

### Preparation of garlic powder

Garlic bulbs were purchased from a local source. The bulbs were chopped into tiny cuts, sun dried, winnowed to remove the husk and then ground into fine powder.

### Chickens

Ninety Chickens, one day old Hubbard chicks were used in the present study. All chicks were reared in separate cages and were fed on a balanced ration. Free access of Feed and water was also allowed.

### Grouping and experimental design:

The chicks were divided into three equal groups, each of 30 chick. The first group was kept non infected and served as a control, the second group was treated with 125 ppm of clopidol, the third group was treated with 5 gram /kg B.W of garlic powder. Isolation of field *Eimeria* strain, sporulation and propagation of the oocysts was carried out according to the method described by Saif (2003). At 21<sup>th</sup> day of age, about 50,000 oocysts were given orally to each birds in all experimental groups Oocyst count/gm faeces and faecal score examination were performed at 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> day after challenge.

### Evaluation of the anticoccidial efficacy

#### Oocyst count:

Faecal samples were collected at 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> day after challenge for oocyst count and faecal score examination. The oocyst count was carried out according to the method described by Abd El-Rahman *et al.* (1982).

#### Post mortem and lesion score:

The method described by Elbahy *et al.* (2006) was used. Five birds were killed one week post infection and a scoring system (according to the severity of infection) was adopted between 0 and ++++.

### Final body weight and feed conversion rate:

The feed conversion rates were calculated according to the following equation:

feed conversion rates = consumed feed (grams)/ body weight gain (grams) × 100

### The biochemical analysis:

Blood samples were collected from birds of each group at the end of the experiment. Serum AST, and ALT were measured according to Reitman and Frankel (1957), Creatinine by Seeling and Wust (1969) and uric acid (Baraham and Trinder, 1972).

### Mortality rate:

Number of dead birds were also recorded throughout the experiment to calculate the mortality rate (number of dead birds / total number of birds in each group).

### Clinical signs:

After infection, chickens were kept under observation for recording the intensity of clinical signs of coccidiosis as diarrhea, bloody faeces, stop feeding and depression (Brandcr *et al.*, 1991).

### Statistical analysis:

Data were statistically analyzed using one-way analysis of variance and Duncan's multiple range test was used for comparison between means (SAS, 1998).

## RESULTS

The obtained data concerning the effect of clopidol and garlic powder on the chickens infected with *Eimeria* spp. revealed that administration of clopidol or garlic powder evoked a significant decrease in oocyst count/gm droppings, lesion score, clinical signs of coccidiosis and mortality rate compared with infected non treated group. Also, adding of clopidol or garlic powder improved the performance of the birds. The activity of serum AST, ALT, creatinine and uric acid was decreased by both treatment. On the other hand, addition of garlic powder induce more prominent effects than clopidol in improving the feed conversion (at 21 day post infection) and serum creatinin level and decreasing the mortality rate. The results of the study were illustrated in the following tables.

**Table 1:** Effect of clopidol and garlic powder on oocyst count ( $\times 10^3$ )/gm faeces in *Eimeria*-infected broilers.

Groups / Weeks P.I.	Group (1) Infected non treated	Group (2) Treated with clopidol	Group (3) Treated with garlic powder
1 <sup>st</sup> week	1071.2±25.1a	481.0±3.7c	534.2±13.2b
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	582.0±7.82a	141. ±9.0c	162.0±5.7b
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	271 ±0.314 a	161.8± 1.32 b	163.6 ± 1.28 b

Means in the same row bearing different letters, differ significantly (P<0.05)

**Table 2:** Lesion score in broiler chickens experimentally infected with *Eimeria* and Supplemented with clopidol and garlic powder.

Groups	Lesion score
Group (1) Infected non treated	+++
Group (2) Treated with clopidol	+
Group (3) Treated with garlic powder	+

**Table 3:** Effect of clopidol and garlic powder on weekly body weight gain in chicken infected with *Eimeria* pp.

Groups / Weeks P.I.	Group (1) Infected non treated	Group (2) Treated with clopidol	Group (3) Treated with garlic powder
1 <sup>st</sup> week	183.5±6.9a	319.31±8.0c	285.7±6.3b
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	278.3±10.4a	545.2±13.6c	452.8±21.3b
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	296.2±4.6a	472.3±13.6b	449.6±19.8b

Means in the same row bearing different letters, differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )

**Table 4:** Effect of clopidol and garlic powder on weekly FCR in chicken.

Groups / Weeks P.I.	Group (1) Infected non treated	Group (2) Treated with clopidol	Group (3) Treated with garlic powder
1 <sup>st</sup> week	3.04 ± 0.10a	2.53 ± 0.09a	2.24 ± 0.22b
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3.07 ± 0.12a	2.46 ± 0.09b	2.27 ± 0.12b
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	3.45 ± 0.15a	3.05 ± 0.18b	2.3 ± 0.07c

Means in the same row bearing different letters, differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )

**Table 5:** Some biochemical analysis in broiler chickens experimentally infected with *Eimeria* spp. and Supplemented with clopidol or garlic powder.

Groups	AST (U/L)	ALT(U/L)	Creatinine (mg/dL)	uric acid (mg/dL)
Group (1) Infected non treated	97.2± 6.1a	22.1±2.0 a	0.84± 0.047 a	9.38±0.34 a
Group (2) Infected treated with clopidol	72.8± 5.3 b	14.3±0.88 b	0.67±0.043 b	6.25±0.23 b
Group (3) Infected treated with garlic powder	74.6±5.9 b	14.1±1.1 b	0.51±0.058 c	6.22±0.26 b

Means in the same column bearing different letters, differ significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )

**Table 6:** Effect of clopidol and garlic powder on mortality rate of infected chicks (30/group).

Groups / Weeks P.I.	Group (1) Infected non treated	Group (2) Treated with clopidol	Group (3) Treated with garlic powder
1 <sup>st</sup> week	4	3	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	2	1	1
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	0	0	0
Total %	20 %	13.3 %	10 %

## DISCUSSION

Shedding of *Eimeria* oocysts is an important parameter which used by researchers for evaluation of the anticoccidial drugs. The obtained data concerning the effect of clopidol and garlic powder on the oocysts count/gm dropping of chickens infected with *Eimeria* revealed that both clopidol and garlic powder evoked a significant decrease in oocyst count/gm droppings. The previous results agree with Ryley, (1967); Sevcik and Danek (1972); Ryley and Wilson, (1975), Singh *et al.* (1982) and Arakawa, (1991). The authors found that, the number of oocysts excreted in the faeces of clopidol treated birds was much lower than in the control non treated one. Moreover, Giebel *et al.* (1983) stated that clopidol was superior to nicarbazin in terms of decreasing the mortality, intestinal lesions and oocysts count. The anticoccidial effect of clopidol could be attributed to inhibition of the electron transport system within parasite mitochondria (Fry and Williams, 1984; Adam, 2001 and Walter, 2008).

Worku *et al.* (2009); Dkhil *et al.* (2011) and Pourali *et al.* (2014) reported that garlic significantly decreased oocysts output. Garlic is rich in organosulfur compounds whose precursors (allicin, diallyl sulfide and diallyl trisulfide) that believed to play key roles in antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. Therefore, garlic probably eliminated the negative effects of coccidial infection and improved the performance of infected birds (Banerjee *et al.*, 2003). The same findings were reported also by Khan *et al.* (2012).

The obtained findings in this work showed that adding of clopidol or garlic powder improved body weight gain and feed conversion of the infected birds. The biochemical analysis of the two groups treated with clopidol or garlic powder revealed improvement of liver & kidney functions. Serum activity of AST, ALT, uric acid and creatinine were significantly decreased in treated groups in comparison with infected non treated one. The level of serum enzyme activity reflects the condition of liver, kidney, cecci and other organs. This could be due to the ability of *coccidia* to induce liver and kidney damage beside other factors such as loss of appetite, sloughing of mucosal cells in ceacum and bloody diarrhea. This result are in agreement with Kumor and Rawat (1975); Singh *et al.* (1976); El-Dahshan (1996); Ibrahim (1998) and Biu *et al.* (2006) and Pourali *et al.* (2014), who reported that chickens infected with coccidial developed hepatocellular and renal damage, and that serum AST, ALT, uric acid and creatinine were significantly high. This adverse effect of coccidiosis could be explained on the base of increased the production of nitric oxide derived products (nitrite/nitrate) and malondialdehyde, lowered glutathione levels and decreased activities of

catalase and superoxide dismutase, respectively. (Dkhil *et al.*, 2011).

## CONCLUSION

It could be concluded that, garlic powder (5 gram/kg B.W) can be used as an alternative to traditional anticoccidial drugs as clopidol (125 mg/kg B.W) to overcome coccidiosis in broiler.

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## دراسة تأثير الكليبيدول ومسحوق الثوم كمضاد للكوكسيديا على دجاج التسمين المصاب بالاييريا

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المستهدف من هذه الدراسة البحث عن امكانيه إيجاد بدائل طبيعیه لمضادات الكوكسيديا التقليديه. في هذا البحث تمت مقارنه استخدام عقار الكليبيدول بمسحوق الثوم لمقاومه الكوكسيديا في دجاج التسمين. قسمت الكتاكيت الى ثلاث مجموعات متساوية كل منها تحتوى على ٣٠ كتكوت عمر ١ يوم. المجموعه الاولى كانت مجموعته ضابطه غذيت على علائق أساسيه بدون اى إضافات بينما المجموعه الثانيه غذيت على علائق مضاف إليها عقار الكليبيدول (١٢٥مجم/كجم) والمجموعه الثالثه غذيت على علائق مضاف إليها مسحوق الثوم (٥جم/كجم). تمت العدوى باستخدام ٥٠٠٠٠٠ حويصله من الاييريا لكل طائر عند عمر ٢١ يوم وسجلت النتائج عند اليوم ٤٧ و١٤١ بعد العدوى. تم ذبح ٥ طيور في كل مجموعته بعد العدوى باسبوع وذلك لمقارنه الأافات التشريحيه المرضيه بين المجموعات المختلفه. في نهايه تجربه ايضا تم سحب عينات دم من الطيور لإجراء عدد من الفحوص البيوكيميائيه. وقد اظهرت النتائج أن استخدام الكليبيدول او الثوم أدى إلى إنخفاض معنوى في عدد حويصلات الأييريا في زرق الكتاكيت و كذلك الأعراض الظاهره لعدوى الكوكسيديا و تقليل معدلات النفوق والأافات التشريحيه المرضيه بالاضافه الى تحسن معدل التحويل الغذائى للطيور. أما بالنسبة للتأثير على انزيمات الكبد ووظائف الكلى فقد حدث انخفاض معنوى في مستوى انزيم الالانين أمينوترانسفيريز وانزيم الأسبارتيت أمينوترانسفيريز وكذلك في مستوى حمض اليوريك والكرياتينين في كلا المجموعتين المعالجتين بالكليبيدول ومسحوق الثوم. وقد لوحظ انه بالاضافه إلى ذلك كان معدل التحويل الغذائى (في الاسبوع الثالث بعد العدوى) ومستوى الكرياتينين ونسبه النفوق الأقل في المجموعه الثالثه عن باقى المجموعات بينما وجد أن الكليبيدول كان أكثر فاعليه من مسحوق الثوم في تقليل عدد أكياس الاييريا في زرق الكتاكيت عند الاسبوع الأول والثانى بعد العدوى.