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## Relationship between oxidative stress status and glycoprotein-associated pregnancy concentrations during the early pregnancy period in dairy cows

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study was planned to assess the possible relationships with pregnancy-associated glycoproteins (PAG) concentrations by the determination of the biomarkers of oxidative stress in the plasma of dairy cattle during the early period of gestation.

**Materials and Methods:** Blood samples were collected from coccygeal vessels in pregnant (n = 54) and non-pregnant (n = 45) cows. Measurement of biomarkers of oxidative stress (LPO, GSH and SOD) was carried out in females using spectrophotometric method.

**Results:** Plasma PAG concentrations increased and continuously over the both periods investigated. There were significant differences between pregnant and non-pregnant groups ( $P < 0.001$ ). The concentration of SOD were significantly lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) in pregnant females from day 25 to 35 ( $7.08 \pm 0.31$  U.ml<sup>-1</sup>) and day 36 to 50 after AI ( $6.6 \pm 0.29$  U.ml<sup>-1</sup>) compared with non-pregnant cows ( $7.59 \pm 0.35$  U.ml<sup>-1</sup>). Concerning the concentrations of LPO and GSH, the values obtained were also significant lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) in pregnant females in the period 25-35 days post AI ( $122.7 \pm 10.27$   $\mu$ M and  $6.46 \pm 1.24$   $\mu$ mol/min.ml<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) and 36-50 days post AI ( $108.05 \pm 6.17$   $\mu$ M and  $6.2 \pm 0.77$   $\mu$ mol/min.ml<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) than in the non-pregnant females ( $124.8 \pm 12.16$   $\mu$ M and  $6.96 \pm 0.92$   $\mu$ mol/min.ml<sup>-1</sup>, respectively).

**Conclusion:** It was observed that the markers of oxidative stress tended to be higher in non-pregnant females compared with pregnant females during the early period of gestation in dairy cattle. Our results suggest the existence of a relationship among the concentration of oxidative stress markers and PAG during early pregnancy.

**Keywords:** Bovine; Pregnancy; Pregnancy-associated glycoproteins, Oxidative stress

### INTRODUCTION

During pregnancy, several hormones and proteins are synthesized and secreted in the maternal circulation by ovaries, the placenta and the foetus. Some of them are specific to gestation and being detected in maternal blood from the moment when the conceptus becomes more closely attached to the

uterine wall and the formation of placentomes (Chavatte-Palmer and Tarrade, 2016).

Pregnancy-associated glycoproteins (PAG) constitute a large family of molecules specifically expressed in the outer epithelial cell layer of the placenta in eutherian species. Their functions are not fully understood and they tend to be enzymatically inactive because of a mature in their active site (Sousa *et al*, 2006). Some immune

suppressive properties of bovine PAGs and PAG-like molecules as pregnancy specific protein-B (PSPB) have been suggested in cattle (Hoeben *et al*, 2000). In particular, diminished immune functions of peripheral blood polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMN) have been detected after PAGs peak at parturition (Dosogne *et al*, 1999). In a recent study, a clear relationship between high plasma PAG levels and elevated total leukocyte and neutrophil counts has been shown (Abdelfatah-Hassan *et al*, 2012). Neutrophils play an important role in host defense mechanisms and are known to cause tissue damage at the inflammatory site (Sordillo and Aitken, 2009). The activation of PMN is characterized by the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) causing oxidative stress (Nathan and Cunningham-Bussel, 2013). The last may result from increased production of free radicals and reactive oxygen species, and/or a decrease in antioxidant defense which leads to damage of biological macromolecules and disruption of normal metabolism and physiology (Trevisan *et al*, 2001). It is well known that toxic ROS and oxidative stress are of primary importance in immune and inflammatory mechanisms (Codoñer-Franch *et al*, 2011) involved in the majority of diseases (Poston *et al*, 2011; Tuuli *et al*, 2011). Several studies confirmed the occurrence of oxidative stress during pregnancy, parturition (Fainaru *et al*, 2002; Lopez-Gatius *et al*, 2007) as well as during post-parturient period (Wall *et al*, 2002).

Pregnancy is a physiological event characterized by a drastic increase in energetic demands, to ensure an adequate fetal development and growth, thus, both mother and fetus are likely to experience oxidative stress (Garrel *et al*, 2010) with increased oxygen free radicals production (Mohanty *et al*, 2006). In normal pregnancy, there is a physiological oxidative balance where vitamin C, vitamin D and E gradually increase leading to a maintained oxidative balance throughout pregnancy (Bomba-Opon *et al*, 2014). There are several studies to support the concept that oxidative stress is a significant underlying factor to dysfunctional host immune and inflammatory responses that can increase the susceptibility dairy cattle to a variety of health disorders (Castillo *et al*, 2005; Wilde, 2006). Very early embryo mortality depends on blastocyst development capacities and uterine environment features (Gilbert, 2011) and it is well known in humans, ruminants and other animal species, that reactive oxygen species ROS are involved in embryo/fetal loss (Talukder *et al*, 2014).

Oxidative stress can be monitored with several biomarkers which can be assessed in plasma such as lipid peroxidation (LPO) and antioxidants including reduced glutathione (GSH) and superoxide dismutase (SOD). Whether oxidative status (LPO, GSH and SOD concentration) is related to trophoblast secretory properties (PAG secretion) during embryonic and early fetal development remains to be elucidated. To verify our hypothesis, we evaluated oxidative status and assessed the possible relationships with PAG concentrations by measuring LPO, GSH and SOD in Holstein Friesian dairy cattle during the early period of gestation.

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## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Animals

The experiment was carried out from March to August 2011 in different dairy herds in Bass Kabylie area (36°34'N, 5°04'E), Algeria. This research was approved by the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Nature and Life Sciences (Report of Faculty Scientific Council Nbr. 07 dated December 14, 2010), University of Bejaia, Algeria). Concerning the ethical aspects, the experimental procedure was performed *in vitro* and the blood sampling of females was performed according to good veterinary practice under farm conditions. A total of 99 Holstein Friesian dairy cattle with mixed age (06 months and 12 years) and parity (0–9) were used in this study. The body condition score (BCS) was determined during the blood sampling period using a 5-points scale as described previously (Green *et al*, 2014). The BCS of experiment females was between 2.5 to 4.5. Fifty-four and forty-five Holstein Friesian females constituted the pregnant and non-pregnant groups, respectively. The pregnancies of females were diagnosis by ultrasonography (AgROSCAN A14, sondebi frequency 3.5 and 5.0 MHz) at 35-40 days post-artificial insemination (AI) (Wéré *et al*, 2012) or by rectal exploration approximately at 2 to 3 months after AI.

### Blood sampling

Blood samples were collected in the in pregnant females between 25 to 50 days. For the control group, samples were randomly collected during a stabling period and in the absence of males. Samples collected from coccygeal vessels were transferred into a tube containing EDTA (Sarstedt®, Numbrecht, Germany). Plasma was obtained by centrifugation (1,500 × g for 15 min) immediately after collection and was stored at -20 °C until assay.

### Measurement of pregnancy-associated glycoprotein (PAG) concentrations

The PAG concentrations in pregnant and non-pregnant groups were determined in plasma by Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) performed in duplicates, as previously validated (Ayad *et al*, 2014). The detecting antibody used was a rabbit biotin-conjugated anti-PAG IgG. A spectrophotometer reader was used according to the kit instruction (Ref. Code E.G.7. CER. Marloie, Belgium). The enzyme substrate was avidin-horseradish peroxidase (HRP). The standard curve ranged from 0 to 2 ng/ml.

The basis of the test is a sandwich reaction involving two antibodies raised against PAG: the first one is coated on a 96 micro-plate whereas the second one is conjugated to biotin and detected using avidin-horseradish peroxidase (HRP). Briefly, dilution buffer is added just before adding PAG standards and serum samples. Afterwards, it is followed by an overnight incubation at room temperature. Micro titer wells are washed before addition of biotinylated anti-PAG. The washing step is followed by an incubation of 20 min at 37 °C with avidin-HRP. After the second washing, the substrate/chromogen solution is added to the wells and incubated 30 min at room temperature. The addition of the stopping reagent transforms the blue coloration into a yellow compound. Finally, the absorption at 450 nm was measured and the optical density was found to be proportional to the PAG concentration.

The threshold of 0.8 ng/ml was used to discriminate between pregnant and non-pregnant females (Ayad *et al*, 2009). The intra- and inter-assay coefficients of variation of PAG-ELISA were 2.78 and 6.08 %, respectively.

### Measurement of the levels of superoxide dismutase (SOD), lipid peroxidation (LPO) and reduced glutathione (GSH) in plasma blood

Measurement of SOD was carried out in pregnant and non-pregnant females using spectrophotometric method with commercially available kits (Cayman Chemical). NADPH-dependent membrane lipid peroxidation was measured as thiobarbituric acid reactive substance using malonaldehyde as standard (Sigma-Aldrich Fine Chemicals, St Louis, MO) (Nemmar *et al*, 2013). Measurement of GSH concentrations was carried out in pregnant and non-pregnant females according to the method described by commercially

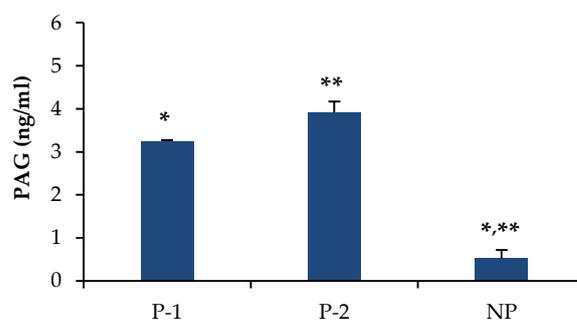
available kit (Sigma-Aldrich Fine Chemicals, Munich, Germany).

### Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed using a mixed model for repeated measurements (Statview Software, Version 4.55) taking into account an autocorrelation between data obtained successively on the same animal. The data ( $\pm$  SE) were expressed as values of the PAG concentration and biomarkers of oxidative status. The Fisher's exact test was used to determine whether there was a significant difference between pregnant (P) cows (P-1: 25-35 days post AI; P-2: 36-50 days post AI) and non-pregnant (NP) cows. The values were statistically different when the *P*-value was  $\leq$  0.05.

## RESULTS

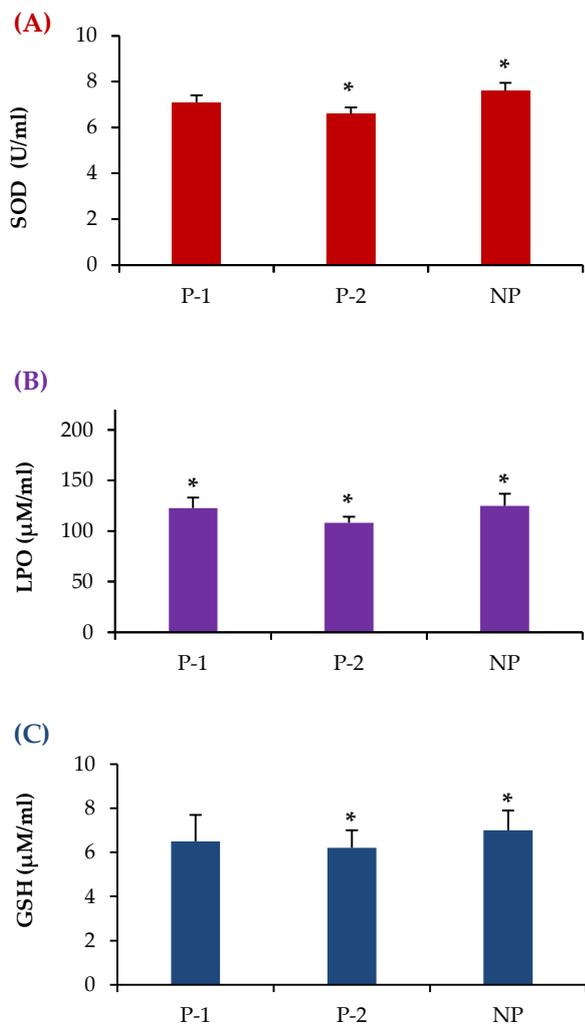
Plasma PAG concentrations increased and continuously over the both periods investigated. Pregnant cows had the lowest levels of PAG ( $3.24 \pm 0.25$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>) in the period 25-35 days post-AI (Fig. 1). Thereafter, PAG concentrations increased significantly (*P*=0.05) in the period 36-50 days after fertilization ( $3.92 \pm 0.21$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>). The results of this experiment showed a very high PAG concentration ( $3.59 \pm 0.16$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>) in pregnant compared with non-pregnant cows ( $0.53 \pm 0.03$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>). There were significant differences between pregnant and non-pregnant groups (*P* < 0.001, Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Plasma pregnancy associated glycoprotein concentration (mean  $\pm$  SE) at early pregnancy period after IA in pregnant (P) cows (P-1: 25-35 days post AI; P-2: 36-50 days post AI) and non-pregnant (NP) cows. \*,\*\*: Significant difference in mean concentrations between P-1, P-2 and NP groups (*P*<0.05)

The levels of SOD (Fig. 2A) were significantly lower (*P*≤0.05) in pregnant cows at day 36 to 50 after AI ( $6.6 \pm 0.29$  U.ml<sup>-1</sup>) compared with non-pregnant cows ( $7.59 \pm 0.35$  U.ml<sup>-1</sup>). Concerning the concentrations of

LPO (Fig. 2B), the values obtained were significant lower ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) in pregnant cows in the period 25-35 days post AI ( $122.7 \pm 10.27 \mu\text{M}$ ) and 36-50 days post AI ( $108.05 \pm 6.17 \mu\text{M}$ ) than in the non-pregnant cows ( $124.8 \pm 12.16 \mu\text{M}$ ). On the other hand, GSH (Fig. 2C) concentrations were also significantly lower ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) in pregnant cows during the period 36-50 days post AI ( $6.2 \pm 0.77 \mu\text{mol}/\text{min} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ ) than in the non-pregnant cows ( $6.96 \pm 0.92 \mu\text{mol}/\text{min} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ ).



**Figure 2.** Plasma concentration (mean  $\pm$  SE) of SOD (2A), LPO (2B) and GSH (2C) levels at early pregnancy period after IA in pregnant females (P-1: 25-35 days post AI; P-2: 36-50 days post AI) and non-pregnant females. \* Significant difference in mean concentrations between P-1, P-2 and NP groups ( $P < 0.05$ )

Positive correlation between LPO concentrations and SOD levels was  $r = 0.6$  ( $P \leq 0.05$ , Table 1). There was no significant correlation between PAG and other oxidative stress parameters.

**Table 1.** Correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) between of pregnancy associated glycoprotein, SOD, LPO and GSH concentrations at early pregnancy period from day 25 to 50 after AI in pregnant females ( $*P < 0.05$ )

	SOD	LPO	GSH
LPO	<b>0.6*</b>		
GSH	-0.25	-0.14	
PAG	0.12	0.05	-0.11

## DISCUSSION

This study investigated whether the concentrations of markers of oxidative stress during the early period of pregnancy in dairy cattle could be related to trophoblastic secretory function based on the measurement of PAG concentrations in pregnant cows.

Bovine pregnancy-associated glycoproteins are mainly secreted by trophoblastic binucleate cells (Wooding *et al*, 2005) and they have been detected in the blood pregnancy cows from day 25 after AI (Green *et al*, 2014). Therefore, these glycoproteins have been used as a biochemical marker of pregnancy (Gajewski *et al*, 2014), monitoring of placental secretory function in ongoing pregnancies (Breukelman *et al*, 2012), detection of placental abnormalities (Constant *et al*, 2011) and investigation of embryonic and fetal mortalities (Karen *et al*, 2014). Detection of PAG by radioimmunoassay method (García-Ispierto *et al*, 2015) or ELISA (Piechotta *et al*, 2011) is currently used as a specific serological method for pregnancy diagnosis in cattle from 28 day after breeding, with a threshold level for pregnancy of 0.8 ng/ml (Ayad *et al*, 2009).

The results of this experiment showed that the mean PAG concentrations measured at early gestation period by ELISA method in the pregnant cows agreed with those of Friedrich and Holtz (2010). There was only a significant difference at period 25-30 days after AI. The lack of significant difference in PAG values from 30 to 50 of gestation appears to be probably attributed to the high individual variation in PAG concentrations. A high variability of individual PAG levels has been documented in the literature. Lobago and co-workers (2009) reported that the PAG profiles were considerably influenced by factors such as breed, weight and parity status of the dam. Likewise, it was reported that PAG concentrations during the early fetal pregnancy period are correlated with some factors such as milk production in high

producing dairy cows (Lopez-Gatius *et al*, 2007). In other study, Ayad *et al*. (2009) observed that PAG concentrations tended to be higher in primiparous than nulliparous or multiparous females. However, according to Ledezma-Torres *et al* (2006) parity had no significant effect in plasma PAG levels. As shown in figure 1, the difference between pregnancy and non-pregnant cows were very significant. In the non-pregnant group, ELISA method detected PAG concentration in all females was lower than 0.8 ng/ml (Ayad *et al*, 2009).

Oxidative stress corresponds to an imbalance between the rate of oxidants production and that of their degradation (Sorg, 2004). All mechanisms linked to pregnancy are under control of steroid hormones, prostaglandins as well as other biologically active factors (Kindahl *et al*, 2004). These mechanisms are based on metabolic pathways which are usually aerobic and may be related to the production of certain amounts of ROS. The blastocyst loses the zona pellucid 9-10 days before implantation in the bovine specie (Ayad *et al*, 2006). This is accompanied by an increase in ROS generation, related to an augment in the cell to cell contact and to NADPH oxydase activation. Mitochondrial ROS generation increases during embryogenesis because an imbalance exists between ROS generation and its modulation, with ROS generation being overwhelming (Aurousseau *et al*, 2004).

To our knowledge, this is the first report on the relationship between markers of oxidative stress and PAG concentrations from bovine plasma at early stages of pregnant cows. The activities of the LPO is one the most important expression of oxidative stress induced by ROS, and as well as antioxidant enzymes, namely SOD and GSH. In the present study, LPO, SOD and GSH were determined in plasma sample of pregnant and non-pregnant cows.

Oxidative stress seems to have a role in the cause and progression of a number of reproductive events in both humans and animals, such as fertilization and early embryo development (Al-Gubory *et al*, 2010). Oxidative stress during early placental development is associated with pregnancy-related disorders in humans (Agarwal and Allamaneni, 2004; Gupta *et al*, 2007). The depletion of placental antioxidant systems has been suggested as a key factor in early human pregnancy failure (Liu *et al*, 2006). Some data published suggested that enhanced activities of key antioxidant enzymes with gestational ages may act as protective

mechanism against oxidative stress during early human (Qanungo *et al*, 2000) and sheep (Garrel *et al*, 2010) placental development and growth.

Antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase and glutathione peroxidase could be beneficial in enhancing implantation and maintaining pregnancy by antagonizing the harmful oxygen free radical (Smith *et al*, 1998). Superoxide dismutase enzyme is believed to play a major role in the first line of antioxidant defense by catalyzing the dismutation of superoxide anion radicals to from hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) and molecular oxygen (Soehnlein *et al*, 2009). Glutathione peroxidase is a selenoprotein that reduce lipidic or non lipidichydroperoxides as well as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> while oxidizing GSH (Sordillo *et al*, 2009). It is important to note that mitochondria are the major site of endogenous O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> production (Wallace, 2005). O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> is converted to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by mitochondrial matrix SOD.

The conceptus develops a good defense mechanism against free radicals, possessing high concentrations of antioxidants at 5 weeks of gestation such as vitamin A and E; and increased expression of catalase, Cu, Zn-SOD, Mn-SOD in villous placenta at twelve weeks (Jauniaux *et al*, 2003). The plasma markers of oxidative stress measured in the present study were statistically different between non-pregnant than in pregnant group. These differences could play a role of successful pregnancy during the early period in dairy cattle. It is difficult to compare these results with others reported in literature because of the lack of studies on oxidative stress during the early pregnancy period in dairy cattle. Preliminary results obtained in the present study suggest that PAG concentrations seem have an indirect effect on markers oxidative stress levels in pregnant females during the early period of gestation. Previous studies suggesting that advanced oxidative protein product (AOPPs), as markers of protein oxidation is not recent (Witko-Sarsat *et al*, 1996). The AOPPs are higher in dairy cows suffering from embryonic mortality than in pregnant females (Celi *et al*, 2012). These results are in disagreement with those reported in literature which showed that a SOD level was significantly higher in pregnancy positive than in pregnancy negative in women (Younis *et al*, 2012).

It is known that the polymorphonuclear (PMN) leukocytes play an important role in host defense mechanisms and are known to cause tissue damage at the inflammatory site. The activation of PMN is characterized by the production of reactive oxygen

species (ROS) such as superoxide anion radical ( $O_2^-$ ), singlet oxygen ( $^1O_2$ ), hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ), and the highly reactive hydroxyl radical (OH) (Sordillo *et al.*, 2009). Considering that the activity of monocytes and macrophages is increased during pregnancy, and that the concentration of several markers of oxidative stress is concomitantly increased, it could be argued that pregnancy is characterized by a pro-inflammatory state (Ness, 2004). It is interesting that decreased SOD, LPO and GSH activities in pregnant females. In this study, during the early period of pregnancy was associated with an increase of PAG concentrations compared with non-pregnant group. Several investigations carried out in order to detect relations between PAG or PSPB and a local immunological function. Dosogne and associated (2000) reported the succession of the very high concentrations of PAG and the decrease of the oxidation activity of the polymorphonuclear neutrophils. In other study, the results indicate that bPAG may directly or indirectly affect the respiratory burst activity of bovine neutrophils in the periparturient period (Hoeben *et al.*, 2000).

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study presents a first report on the relationship between oxidative stress and PAG concentrations during the first trimester of pregnancy in dairy cattle. It was observed that the markers of oxidative stress tended to be higher in non-pregnant females (PAG concentration  $0.53 \pm 0.03$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>) compared with pregnant females (PAG concentration,  $3.59 \pm 0.16$  ng.ml<sup>-1</sup>) during the early period of gestation in dairy cattle. However, further studies including large-scale investigations are needed to confirm our results, as well as to investigate maternal concentrations of both oxidative stress parameters and PAG in pregnant females experiencing interrupted pregnancies.

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## Anatomic Characteristics and Locations of Nutrient Foramen in Humerus of Domestic Animals

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aimed to determine the numbers, directions, localizations, diameters, morphometric values of the nutrient foramina (NF) in humerus of domestic mammals and to reveal the differences between the right and left humerus in animal species.

**Materials and methods:** In the study, a total of 223 humerus, large ruminants (56), small ruminants (60), equidae (29), sus (24), carnivora-dog (42), and carnivora-cat (12), were examined in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Van Yuzuncu Yil University. The numbers, shapes, directions, localization sites and localized surfaces of the NF's were observed with the naked eye, and recorded. The locations of the NF's were confirmed by calculating the Foraminal Index (FI). The diameters of the NF's were measured using 1.2 mm (18 Gauge: G), 0.9 mm (20 G), 0.7 mm (22 G), 0.55 mm (24 G), and 0.1 mm (34 G) needles. In animal species, morphometric measurements were taken such as total length of the humerus (TLH), distance between the NF with the proximal end of the humerus (NFP), distance between the NF with the distal end of the humerus (NFD), FI and performed statistical analysis of the measured values.

**Results:** There was found a single NF in 99% of the examined humerus in the study. In general, it was seen that the NF's were directed downwards, and located in the middle 1/3 with lower 1/3 segments. NF's were determined to be localized to the facies caudalis in 100% of sus, in 93% of large ruminants and carnivora-dogs, and in 85% of small ruminants; however, in equidae and carnivora-cats were all localized to the margo medialis. According to the statistics, no statistically significant difference ( $p>0.05$ ) was observed between the right and left humerus NF measurement values in terms of morphometric properties. But only, the diameter of the NF in the small ruminants was statistically significant ( $p<0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** It was found that the morphological and morphometric differences of NF's in right and left humerus of domestic mammals. Moreover, in these animals, it is thought that the study may help veterinary clinicians and surgeons in evaluating of the pathological conditions related to humeral NF and planning of the operative applications to be performed in this region.

**Keywords:** Anatomy, Foraminal indeks, Humerus, Nutrient foramen

### INTRODUCTION

The humerus, one of the bones that make up the ossa membri thoracici, is a long and thick bone that connects to the scapula with the articulatio humeri in the proximally and also the extremity by means of the articulatio cubiti with the antebrachium

(radius-ulna) in the distally (Dursun, 2002; Dyce et al., 2002; Bahadır and Yıldız, 2008).

Foramen nutricium, which is one of the important anatomical features of long bones such as humerus, is clinically important as it is the site of entry into the feeding vessels of the bone and guiding the

identification of weak areas sensitive to bone fractures (Uzuner et al., 2018; Zahra et al., 2018).

In general, there is an nutrient artery and vein that enters and leaves the diaphysis of the long bone from a nutrient foramen (NF). The nutrient artery (arteria nutricia; NA), which enter the bone through the NF and nutrient canal (NC), is divided into proximal and distal branches when they reach to the medullar cavity (cavum medullare), and these separated branches that provides feeding of the bone marrow and the adjacent cortical bone regions in both during the embryonic phase and the normal growth period (Rhineland, 1968; Martini et al., 2015; Zahra et al., 2018). NA's are responsible for 70-80% of the blood supply of the bones. When this blood supply is restricted in various interventional procedures such as any surgical or operative procedures applied to the region, it may result in necrosis, especially bone ischemia, of the bone marrow and cortex (Shim et al., 1968).

Knowing the localization of NF in long bones is important in applications requiring evaluation of bone development and preservation of blood circulation (Campos et al., 1987). Foraminal Index (FI), used to describe the localization of NF's, is obtained by dividing the distance between the proximal end of the bone and the NF to the total bone length (Hughes, 1952; Gümüşburun et al., 1994; Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Kara et al., 2011). In addition, knowing the morphological features of NF is clinically critical importance for the evaluation of various pathological conditions such as developmental abnormalities and hematogenic osteomyelitis in these bones (Skawina and Wyczolkowski, 1987), and the planning of surgical and orthopedic applications such as bone fracture, bone graft and bone implant applications (Piermattei et al., 2006; Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Kara et al., 2011; Sim and Ahn, 2014; Zahra et al., 2018). Furthermore, in the development of new techniques in the field of bone transplantation and resection, it is of great benefit to know the position of the foramen nutricium and arteria nutricia that supply blood to the bone (Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Xue et al., 2016).

When considering the importance of the clinical and morphological of NF, It is important medically to investigate the characteristics of NF in domestic mammals. This study aimed to determine the numbers, directions, localizations, diameters, morphometric values of the nutrient foramina (NF) in humerus of domestic mammals, and to reveal the

differences between the right and left humerus in animal species.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

In the study, a total of 223 humerus, large ruminants (56), small ruminants (60), equidae (29), sus (24), carnivora-dog (42), and carnivora-cat (12), were examined in the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Van Yuzuncu Yil University. The bones were chosen so that they did not have any anatomical disorder. Age and sex characteristics of the examined bones were not known. The foramen nutricium on the bone was observed with the naked eye. Only well-defined the NF's were accepted in the diaphysis of the bone. The foramina nutricium at both ends of the bone were ignored.

### Morphological and Morphometric Evaluation of the NF's in Humerus Diaphysis

Foramen nutricium in the diaphysis of the humerus in domestic mammals (Figure 1.) was evaluated using the following measurements:

**Direction of the bone:** Right and left directions of the humerus were determined first.

**Number of NF's:** The NF's in the diaphysis of the bones were counted.

**Direction of NF's:** It was separated downwards, upwards and horizontally.

**Localizations of NF's:** Localizations of NF's were calculated using FI. To calculate the localization of all the NF's; The formula  $FI = (NFP / TLH) \times 100$  was used. TLH: total length of the humerus, NFP: distance between the NF and the proximal end of the humerus (Hughes, 1952; Gümüşburun et al., 1994; Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Kara et al., 2011).

**According to the FI, the locations of the NF's were determined as follows:** The proximal 1/3-Type1 (FI up to 33.33), the middle 1/3-Type2 (FI from 33.33 up to 66.66), and the distal 1/3-Type3 (FI above 66.66).

**Localized surfaces of the NF's were divided into four types as follow:** Facies cranialis, facies caudalis, margo lateralis, and margo medialis.

**Diameters of NF's (FD):** It was measured using 1.2 mm (18 Gauge: G), 0.9 mm (20 G), 0.7 mm (22 G), 0.55 mm (24 G), and 0.1 mm (34 G) needles.

**Total length of the humerus (TLH):** The distance between the proximal end and the distal end of the humerus.

**NFP:** Distance between the NF and the proximal end of the humerus.

**NFD:** Distance between the NF and the distal end of the humerus.

Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria (2017) was used as terminology in the study. Morphometric measurements were made by using digital caliper. Pictures of the study materials were taken with the Sony Digital DSC-W830.

### Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics for studied variables were presented as median, mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum values. In the study, categorical variables were expressed as numbers and percentages. Shapiro-Wilk ( $n < 50$ ) was used to determine whether the continuous variables in the study were normally distributed or not. In general, nonparametric tests were performed because these variables were not normally distributed. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to compare the measurements according to right-left groups. Statistical significance levels were considered as 1% and 5%. The SPSS (IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Ver. 23) was used for all statistical computations.

## RESULTS

### Direction of the humerus and Number of NF's

The number of the right and left humerus of domestic mammal in animal species and the number of NF's in the diaphysis of this bone are given in Table 1. According to this, it was observed that the NF's were the only one in 98% of the humerus of large and small ruminants; in the all of the equidae, sus, and carnivora. In general, there was found a single NF in 99% of the examined humerus in the study. However, NF was not found in only 1% of the examined bones.

### Direction of NF's

The directions of the NF in the diaphysis of the examined humerus by animal species are given in Table 2. According to this, it was seen that the NF's were directed downwards in 93% of large ruminants; in the all of small ruminants, equidae, sus, and carnivora. Nevertheless, in 7% of large ruminants was detected that the horizontal direction. In domestic mammals, no humerus was found with the upward direction of the NF's.

### According to the FI, the locations of the NF's

According to the FI, the locations of the NF's in the diaphysis of the examined humerus by animal species are given in Table 3. In general, it was seen that the NF's were located in the middle 1/3 with

lower 1/3 segments. NF's were determined to be localized to the middle 1/3- type 2 in 91% of large ruminants, in 88% of small ruminants, in 34% of equidae, in 96% of sus, in 98% carnivora-dogs, and in 75% of carnivora-cats; the distal 1/3-type 3 in 9% of large ruminants, in 12% of small ruminants, in 66% of equidae, in 4% of sus, in 2% of carnivora-dogs, and in 25% of carnivora-cats.

**Table 1.** Numbers observed NF in the diaphysis of the humerus.

Animal	Direction	n	Numbers of the NF (%)	
Large ruminant	Left	29	1	28
	Right	27	0	27
	Total	56	1 (2)	55 (98)
Small ruminant	Left	31	1	30
	Right	29	0	29
	Total	60	1 (2)	59 (98)
Equidae	Left	14	0	14
	Right	15	0	15
	Total	29	0 (0)	29 (100)
Sus	Left	11	0	11
	Right	13	0	13
	Total	24	0 (0)	24 (100)
Carnivora-dog	Left	22	0	22
	Right	20	0	20
	Total	42	0 (0)	42 (10)
Carnivora-cat	Left	6	0	6
	Right	6	0	6
	Total	12	0	12 (100)
Grand total (all bones)		223	2 (1)	221 (99)

NF: Nutrient Foramen, n: Number

### Localized surfaces of the NF's

Localized surfaces of the NF's in the diaphysis of the examined humerus by animal species are given in Table 4. According to this, NF's were determined to be localized to the facies caudalis in 100% of sus, in 93% of large ruminants and carnivora-dogs, and in 85% of small ruminants; however, in equidae and carnivora-cats were all localized to the margo medialis.

### Diameters of NF's (FD)

The diameters of the NF's in the diaphysis of the examined humerus by animal species are given in Table 5. According to this, the diameters of the examined NF's were observed to be 1.2 mm in 76%, and 0.9 mm in 24% of large ruminants; 0.9 mm in 2%, 0.7 mm in 22%, and 0.55 mm in 76% of small ruminants; 1.2 mm in 79%, and 0.9 mm in 21% of equidae; 1.2 mm in 83%, and 0.9 mm in 17% of sus; 1.2 mm in 24%, 0.7 mm in 43%, and 0.55 mm in 33% of carnivora-dogs; 0.1 mm in 100% of carnivora-cats.

**Table 2.** Direction of NF's

Animal	Direction	n	Direction of NF's n (%)		
			Downwards	Upward	Horizontal
Large ruminant	Left	28	24 (86)	0 (0)	4 (14)
	Right	27	27 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	55	51 (93)	0 (0)	4 (7)
Small ruminant	Left	30	31 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Right	29	29 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	59	60 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Equidae	Left	14	14 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Right	15	15 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	29	29 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sus	Left	11	11 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Right	13	13 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	24	24 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Carnivora-dog	Left	22	22 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Right	20	20 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	42	42 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Carnivora-cat	Left	6	6 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Right	6	6 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Total	12	12 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)

**Table 3.** According to the FI, the Locations of the NF's.

Animal	Direction	n	Locations of the NF's n (%)		
			Proximal 1/3- Type 1	Middle 1/3- Type 2	Distal 1/3- Type 3
Large ruminant	Left	28	0	25	3
	Right	27	0	25	2
	Total	55	0 (0)	50 (91)	5 (9)
Small ruminant	Left	30	0	27	3
	Right	29	0	25	4
	Total	59	0 (0)	52 (88)	7 (12)
Equidae	Left	14	0	5	9
	Right	15	0	5	10
	Total	29	0 (0)	10 (34)	19 (66)
Sus	Left	11	0	10	1
	Right	13	0	13	0
	Total	24	0 (0)	23 (96)	1 (4)
Carnivora-dog	Left	22	0	21	1
	Right	20	0	20	0
	Total	42	0 (0)	41 (98)	1 (2)
Carnivora-cat	Left	6	0	5	1
	Right	6	0	4	2
	Total	12	0 (0)	9 (75)	3 (25)

FI: Foraminal Index;

**Table 4.** Localized Surfaces of the NF's

Animal	Direction	n	Localized Surfaces of the NF's n (%)			
			Facies cranialis	Facies caudalis	Margo lateralis	Margo medialis
Large ruminant	Left	28	2	25	1	0
	Right	27	0	26	1	0
	Total	55	2 (3.5)	51 (93)	2 (3.5)	0 (0)
Small ruminant	Left	30	0	24	6	0
	Right	29	1	26	2	0
	Total	59	1 (2)	50 (85)	8 (13)	0 (0)
Equidae	Left	14	0	0	0	14
	Right	15	0	0	0	15
	Total	29	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	29 (100)
Sus	Left	11	0	11	0	0
	Right	13	0	13	0	0
	Total	24	0 (0)	24 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Carnivora-dog	Left	22	1	20	0	1
	Right	20	0	19	0	1
	Total	42	1 (2)	39 (93)	0 (0)	2 (5)
Carnivora-cat	Left	6	0	0	0	6
	Right	6	0	0	0	6
	Total	12	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (100)

**Table 5.** Diameters of NF's (mm)

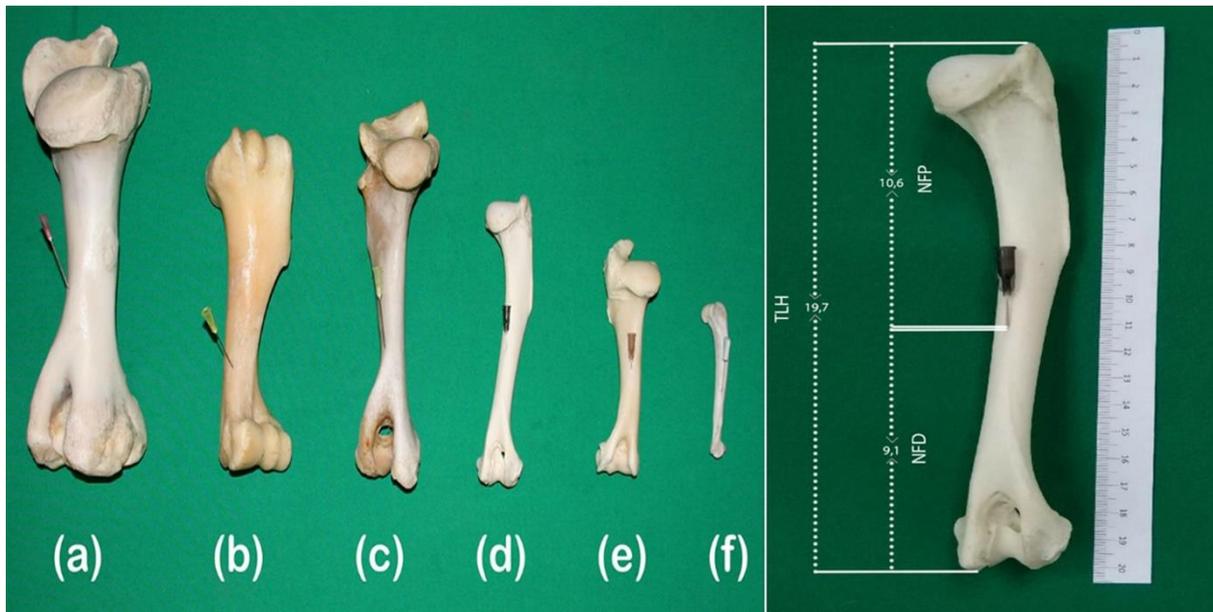
Animal	Direction	n	Diameters of NF's n (%)				
			1.2 (18G)	0.9 (20G)	0.7 (22G)	0.55 (24G)	0.1 (34G)
Large ruminant	L	28	20	8	0	0	0
	R	27	22	5	0	0	0
	T	55	42 (76)	13 (24)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Small ruminant	L	30	0	0	3	27	0
	R	29	0	1	10	18	0
	T	59	0 (0)	1 (2)	13 (22)	45 (76)	0 (0)
Equidae	L	14	11	3	0	0	0
	R	15	12	3	0	0	0
	T	29	23 (79)	6 (21)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sus	L	11	9	2	0	0	0
	R	13	11	2	0	0	0
	T	24	20 (83)	4 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Carnivora-dog	L	22	0	7	8	7	0
	R	20	0	3	10	7	0
	T	42	0 (24)	10 (0)	18 (43)	14 (33)	0 (0)
Carnivora-cat	L	6	0	0	0	0	6
	R	6	0	0	0	0	6
	T	12	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (100)

G: Gauge; D: Direction; n: Number; L: Left; R: Right; T: Total.

**Table 6.** Descriptive Statistics and Comparison of Characteristics of the NF's

Animal	Parameter	Direction	Mean	Median	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	*p.
Large ruminant	TLH	L	28.53	28.85	2.03	24.10	32.30	0.076
		R	29.80	29.80	2.42	25.10	35.00	
	NFP	L	17.20	16.95	2.37	13.60	22.10	0.209
		R	17.84	17.90	1.73	14.50	20.60	
	NFD	L	11.33	11.85	2.18	5.70	15.90	0.341
		R	11.96	12.10	1.55	9.40	14.90	
	FI	L	60.29	59.88	7.19	48.87	79.50	0.840
		R	59.89	59.67	3.79	52.92	67.02	
FD	L	1.11	1.20	0.14	0.90	1.20	0.385	
	R	1.14	1.20	0.12	0.90	1.20		
Small ruminant	TLH	L	16.39	16.40	1.74	13.50	21.10	0.903
		R	16.49	16.50	1.94	12.50	21.00	
	NFP	L	10.11	9.80	1.49	7.60	14.60	0.347
		R	9.81	9.60	1.82	6.40	15.10	
	NFD	L	6.29	6.30	0.78	4.80	8.10	0.108
		R	6.67	6.60	1.00	4.30	9.10	
	FI	L	61.51	61.29	4.23	52.41	69.23	0.071
		R	59.27	59.03	5.84	49.35	71.90	
FD	L	0.56	0.55	0.05	0.45	0.70	0.033	
	R	0.61	0.55	0.10	0.45	0.90		
Equidae	TLH	L	27.61	29.20	3.73	21.40	33.00	0.631
		R	27.51	28.70	3.51	21.50	33.00	
	NFP	L	18.54	19.15	2.34	14.30	23.00	0.965
		R	18.55	18.30	2.36	14.50	23.20	
	NFD	L	9.08	9.55	1.81	5.90	11.90	0.793
		R	8.96	9.50	1.81	5.60	11.60	
	FI	L	67.31	67.56	3.54	60.42	72.81	0.827
		R	67.59	67.44	4.19	59.58	74.07	
FD	L	1.14	1.20	0.13	0.90	1.20	0.926	
	R	1.14	1.20	0.12	0.90	1.20		
Sus	TLH	L	23.03	24.00	3.00	15.20	26.00	0.283
		R	21.95	22.30	3.01	15.40	26.30	
	NFP	L	13.67	13.90	2.33	9.00	18.10	0.643
		R	13.08	14.10	1.87	9.40	15.80	
	NFD	L	9.35	9.30	2.06	6.20	13.80	0.324
		R	8.86	8.80	2.18	6.00	15.10	
	FI	L	59.43	60.00	6.43	45.02	69.62	0.685
		R	59.88	60.73	5.64	42.59	66.36	
FD	L	1.12	1.20	0.14	0.90	1.20	0.484	
	R	1.15	1.20	0.11	0.90	1.20		
Carnivora-dog	TLH	L	17.62	18.00	3.20	12.10	23.80	0.830
		R	17.80	18.50	3.09	12.10	22.20	
	NFP	L	10.01	9.90	2.35	6.70	15.70	0.480
		R	10.17	10.30	1.88	6.00	13.90	
	NFD	L	7.61	8.00	1.34	4.90	9.50	0.890
		R	7.63	7.65	1.72	4.60	11.20	
	FI	L	56.53	57.05	4.85	48.05	71.36	0.378
		R	57.24	57.64	5.32	46.88	65.48	
FD	L	0.72	0.70	0.14	0.55	0.90	0.418	
	R	0.68	0.70	0.12	0.55	0.90		
Carnivora-cat	TLH	L	10.00	10.00	0.68	8.90	10.80	0.998
		R	10.00	10.05	0.72	8.80	10.80	
	NFP	L	6.27	6.30	0.66	5.50	7.10	0.809
		R	6.32	6.40	0.52	5.60	6.80	
	NFD	L	3.73	3.60	0.62	2.90	4.60	0.936
		R	3.68	3.60	0.62	3.00	4.70	
	FI	L	62.69	63.57	5.42	56.57	70.10	0.997
		R	63.27	63.30	4.61	55.66	69.07	
FD	L	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10	1.000	
	R	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.10		

Mann-Whitney U Test Results, \* p<0.05: Statistically significant; TLH: Total length of the humerus; NFP: Distance between the NF and the proximal end of the humerus; NFD: Distance between the NF and the distal end of the humerus; FI: Foraminal Indeks; FD: Diameters of NF's.



**Figure 1.** The diaphyseal foramen nutricium in the humerus of domestic mammals (a: Large ruminant, b: Equidae, c: Sus, d: Carnivora-dog, e: Small ruminant, f: Carnivora-cat, TLH: Total length of the humerus, NFP: Distance between the NF and the proximal end of the humerus, NFD: Distance between the NF and the distal end of the humerus)

### Descriptive statistics and comparison of characteristics of the NF's

The descriptive statistics of the NF's in the diaphysis of the examined humerus by animal species are given in Table 6. According to the statistics, no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) was observed between the right and left humerus NF measurement values in terms of morphometric properties. But only, the diameter of the NF in the small ruminants was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### DISCUSSION

It is important to know the distribution and location of foramen nutricium and canalis nutricium in long bones such as humerus, so as not to cause any damage to the nutritional vessels of the bone during surgical procedures (Kumar et al., 2013). In operative interventions to the long bones require vascularization or protection of these vessels to improve healing more quickly (Wavreille et al., 2006). Moreover, knowing the number and position of NF's in these bones plays an important role in orthopedic surgery such as bone grafting, humeral diaphyseal transplantation, bone fracture repair, microvascular bone surgery, and joint replacement therapy (Kizilkanat et al., 2007).

While there are many studies on anatomical characterization and localization of NF's in human long bones (Shulman, 1959; Kawahara et al., 1967; Mysorekar, 1967; Longia et al., 1980; Ajmani, 1982;

Campos et al., 1987; Skawina and Wyczolkowski, 1987; Gümüşburun et al., 1994; Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Kumar et al., 2013; Xue et al., 2016; Uzuner et al., 2018; Zahra et al., 2018; Sukumar, 2019); this issue has so far attracted little attention or has been studied without going into much detail in domestic mammals. In the veterinary field, Hughes (2016) on the directions of NF and NC in the long bones of various birds and mammals, Payton (1934) on the direction, development and position of NF's in pigs, Daniel et al. (2008) on the relationship between NF's and diseases in sesame bones of hounds, Ahn (2013), Evans and de Lahunta (2013), Sim and Ahn (2014) studied the localization, direction and localization of NF's and the vessels passing through them in the long bones of the forelimb and hindlimb of the dogs. In addition, Garita and Rapoff (2003), Bassage and Ross (1998) on equidea bones, Siddiqui et al. (2008) on goat bones, Rohlan et al. (2018) on bull bones was mentioned about the NF's in their studies. Moreover, in the study performed by Johnson et al. (2017) the differences between the morphological and morphometric characteristics of NF's in the humerus and femur bones of human, sheep and pigs were revealed. This study is very important for forensic anthropology.

In general, there was found a single NF in 99% of the examined humerus in the our study. Compatibility with literature information shows that the NF's in the diaphyseal part of humerus are often singularity (Hughes, 1952; McLeod et al.,

1958; Getty, 1975; Kizilkanat et al., 2007; Sim and Ahn, 2014; Xue et al., 2016).

Generally, the NF's on the humerus were reported to be localized to the facies medialis, and the lower 1/3 segments of the bone in the horses (Getty, 1975); the facies caudalis, and the middle 1/3 segments of the bone in the sheeps (Getty, 1975) and the black bengal goats (Siddiqui et al., 2008); the margo lateralis, and the lower 1/3 segments of the bone in the cattle (McLeod et al., 1958) and blue bull (Rohlan et al., 2018); the facies caudalis, and the junction of the middle and lower 1/3 of the bone in the pigs (Payton, 1934); the facies caudalis, and the lower 1/3 segments of the bone in the elephant (Ahasan et al., 2016), Indian Blackbuck (Choudhary and Singh, 2016), Ox (Raghavan, 1964), and dogs (Miller et al., 1964; Sim and Ahn, 2014). In our study, NF's were determined to be localized to the facies caudalis in 100% of sus, in 93% of large ruminants and carnivora-dogs, and in 85% of small ruminants; however, in equidae and carnivora-cats were all localized to the margo medialis. Moreover, the localizations of NF's were calculated using FI. In general, it was seen that the NF's were located in the middle 1/3 with lower 1/3 segments. NF's were determined to be localized to the middle 1/3- type 2 in 91% of large ruminants, in 88% of small ruminants, in 34% of equidae, in 96% of sus, in 98% carnivora-dogs, and in 75% of carnivora-cats; the distal 1/3-type 3 in 66% of equidae.

Literature shows that the growing end of the long bone grows twice as fast as the other end. Therefore, obliquity of NF's and NC's is directed away from the growing end. This can be explained by the 'Berard's rule' or growing end theory which suggests that the nutrient artery or NC is directed away from the growing end (Mysorekar, 1967; Longia et al., 1980). In general, this theory is mostly valid for the NF's in the diaphysis of long bones such as the humerus, and the direction of the NF or CN's is directed towards the elbow joint (downward-distal) (Hughes, 1952). In this study, in accordance with this information, it was seen that the NF's in the diaphysis of the examined humerus were directed downwards in 93% of large ruminants; in the all of small ruminants, equidae, sus, and carnivora.

Xue et al. (2016) reported that the diameter of the NF's on the humerus is approximately  $1.11 \pm 0.32$  mm in human. Also, Sim and Ahn (2014) determined that this value was between 0.5-1.0 mm in their study on German Shepherd Dogs. However, in the literature review, no study was

found to clearly identify the diameters of NF's in other animal species. In our study, the diameters of the examined NF's were observed to be 1.2 mm in 76%, and 0.9 mm in 24% of large ruminants; 0.9 mm in 2%, 0.7 mm in 22%, and 0.55 mm in 76% of small ruminants; 1.2 mm in 79%, and 0.9 mm in 21% of equidae; 1.2 mm in 83%, and 0.9 mm in 17% of sus; 1.2 mm in 24%, 0.7 mm in 43%, and 0.55 mm in 33% of carnivora-dogs; 0.1 mm in 100% of carnivora-cats. According to the statistics, no statistically significant difference ( $p > 0.05$ ) was observed between the right and left humerus NF measurement values in terms of morphometric properties. But only, the diameter of the NF in the small ruminants was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).

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## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it was found that the morphological and morphometric differences of NF's in right and left humerus of domestic mammals. Moreover, in these animals, it is thought that the study may help veterinary clinicians and surgeons in evaluating of the pathological conditions related to humeral NF and planning of the operative applications to be performed in this region.

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## The study of some hematologic and biochemical parameters in chickens vaccinated with inactivated dual Newcastle-Influenza vaccine

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Newcastle and Influenza diseases are important viral diseases and its occurrence and virulence in Iran has increased in recent years. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the humoral immune responses of chickens vaccinated with inactivated dual oil emulsion Newcastle disease and avian influenza vaccine in two methods of intramuscular and subcutaneous injection as well as to assess the possible changes in serum biochemical factors.

**Materials and Methods:** In this study, after subcutaneous and intramuscular inoculation of inactivated dual oil emulsion Newcastle-Influenza vaccine, the serum antibody level and hematobiochemical factors of these avian were analyzed on 7, 14, 21, and 28 days after vaccine injection.

**Results:** The results showed that the values of biochemical parameters such as albumin, glucose, total protein, triglyceride, cholesterol, ALT, AST, and ALP enzymes, sodium and potassium minerals, and hematocrit and hemoglobin levels in vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens were not significantly different. Also, in chickens injected with antigen, Newcastle disease and influenza antibody titers were significantly different with those groups containing adjuvant.

**Conclusion:** The results of this study indicate that the intramuscular and subcutaneous injection of dual combination vaccine is similar in terms of changes in biochemical and hematological factors and Newcastle disease and influenza antibody titers. To ensure safety in inactivated vaccines, the presence of proper adjuvant is essential for immune response.

**Keywords:** Avian influenza virus, Newcastle virus, Biochemical factors

### INTRODUCTION

Vaccination is the most effective method to prevent infectious diseases in both humans and animals. Generally, in inactivated vaccines, either whole organisms are killed or the subunit vaccines are effective for their adjuvant addition (Aguilar and Rodriguez, 2007). Adjuvants are chemical or biological compounds that enhance the function of the immune system. Newcastle is also called

“Multiple face disease”, due to its several forms. Paramyxoviridae is a family of membranous viruses containing RNA, which have successive single-stranded genomes and negative sense. The disease is caused by a group of very close viruses that form avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (PMV-1) (Abraham et al., 1986; Adair et al., 1989). The virus is a human pathogen and the most common sign in human infection is conjunctivitis that develops within 24 hours of Newcastle disease virus (NDV)

exposure to the eye (Swayne and King, 2003). The most important way of transmitting Newcastle virus to the flock is through airborne particles. The ELISA method is used to identify antibodies to poultry diseases due to the fact that most of the stages are automated and the results are achieved fast. One of the features of the RT-PCR technique is to be a very rapid detection of the presence of the virus. The oropharynx swab is used as a selective sample. NDV has both haemagglutination and neuraminidase activities. The action of haemagglutination is very important in Newcastle disease and the HI assay is the haemagglutination inhibition assay, which is routinely used to determine the NDV titration. Influenza viruses are classified into three types A, B and C on the basis of their antigen and the presence or absence of common group antigens. All avian influenza viruses are categorized as Type A (EFSA, 2005). This virus is a spherical particle with a diameter of 80-120 nm and a filament form that can be several microns in length. Serologic tests such as haemagglutination inhibition assay and neuraminidase inhibition assay are used to determine the type of influenza. Direct contact with infected birds or with a contaminated discharge and feces is necessary to transmit the infection. The super-acute H7 and H5 influenza viruses and the low-pathogenicity H9 viruses are more important because of their direct transmission to humans and the creation of a novel influenza pandemic. The ability of the virus to diffuse depends on the amount of viruses received by the respiratory or digestive tract of the animal. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) uses a brain-heart infusion broth without any antibiotic to collect the trachea and cloak swabs. Positive allantoic fluid is used for haemagglutination to detect the virus. NA subgroups are detected by micro-NI assay with antiserum prepared against 9 surface antigens (Palmer et al., 1975; Van Deusen et al., 1983; Alizadeh-Arsi et al., 2018). In serological monitoring programs, double immunodiffusion assay is often used to detect anti-NP antigens. There is currently no practical way and specific treatment for the infection caused by avian influenza virus in commercial poultry. It has been experimentally shown that amantadine is effective in reducing mortality (Lang et al., 1970; Beard and Easterday, 1973; Dolin et al., 1982; Webster et al., 1985; Easterday et al., 1997). Newcastle-Influenza Vaccine is an oil-killed vaccine containing inactivated avian influenza (H9N2) serotype with native origin and

inactivated Newcastle (V4) serotype produced to prevent Newcastle disease and influenza (H9N2). The purpose of this study was to investigate some hematologic and biochemical parameters in chickens vaccinated with inactivated dual Newcastle-Influenza vaccine.

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## MATERIALS and METHODS

Chickens hatched from specific pathogen free eggs were used for this study. In this study, eight groups (Five chicks in each group) of 21-day chickens were randomly sampled from a flock of chickens. The sampling steps include: Blood collection from all chickens; blood re-sampling from the wing's vein during the first to fourth weeks, i.e., during 7, 14, 21 and 28 days; and then the HI test to evaluate the response of the chickens to the vaccine in terms of immunogenesis; the assessment of changes in liver enzymes such as Aspartate aminotransferase (AST), Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and Alkaline phosphatase (ALP); and finally, the measurement of the biochemical parameters such as sodium, potassium, albumin, glucose, cholesterol, triglyceride and total protein. Hemoglobin and hematocrit tests were performed for hematological tests. Viral antigens were prepared according to conventional standard procedures. Auto Analyzer device (Orense, USA) and Pars kits were used to measure the biochemical parameters, and Cell Counter device (Excel, USA) was used to measure hematological parameters, hemoglobin and hematocrit percentage; and Electrolyte Analyzer (Convergent, Italy) device was applied to measure sodium and potassium contents. For the HI test, Newcastle and influenza antigens, Red blood cell 1% and 96 Well microplates were used. Data was put in SPSS software (version 20.0) and ANOVA and Tukey's test were used for analysis. P value of <0.05 was determined as significant.

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## RESULTS

The humoral immune responses of chickens vaccinated with inactivated dual combination oil Newcastle-influenza vaccine were evaluated in two methods of intramuscular and subcutaneous injection. This study was performed within four weeks after injection and afterwards the results were as follows:

### *The 7<sup>th</sup> day results after injection*

There was no significant difference between the vaccinated and non-vaccinated (control) chickens in biochemical factors such as albumin, glucose, total

protein, triglyceride, cholesterol, ALP, AST and ALT enzymes, sodium and potassium salts and hematocrit and hemoglobin values after separating the serum of the chickens in each intramuscular and subcutaneous injection group and reading the serum results. Also, in the first week after intramuscular and subcutaneous injection, no significant difference was found in the HI antibody titer.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> day results after injection**

According to the isolating serum of chickens by researchers, there was no significant difference between the vaccinated and control chickens. As well as, no significant difference was observed between vaccinated and control chickens in the hematocrit and hemoglobin values in the fourteen days after injection in the blood, in which the anticoagulant substance was added. Although, in the vaccinated chickens, the antibody titer was significantly increased in both Newcastle disease and avian influenza, no antibody titer of Newcastle disease and avian influenza was detected in control chickens.

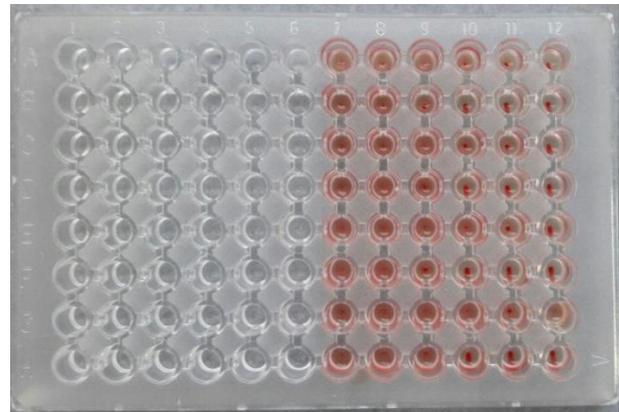
**The 21<sup>th</sup> day results after injection**

Biochemical factors had no significant difference in the results of serum isolated from vaccinated and control chickens within three weeks after subcutaneous and muscular injection. Although, in blood of chickens prepared with anticoagulant, there was no significant difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens, there was a significant difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens in terms of the Newcastle disease and avian influenza antibody titer.

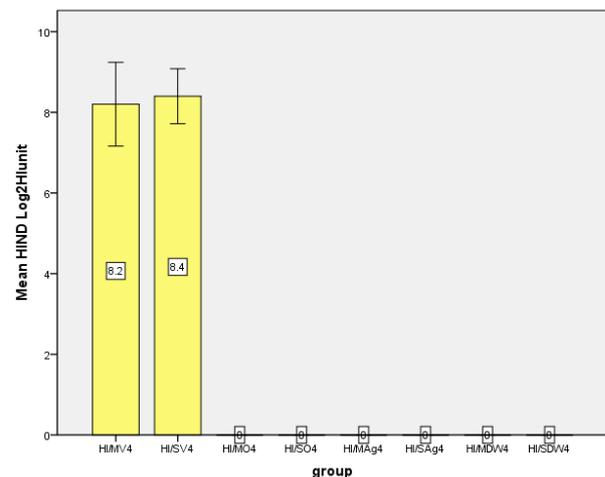
**The 28<sup>th</sup> day results after injection**

The results of four weeks after subcutaneous and intramuscular injection in chickens showed that there was no significant difference in biochemical parameters between vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens based on the serum isolated from chickens' blood. As well as, no significant difference was observed in the blood of chickens with anticoagulant substance of vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens (Figure 1). However, there was a significant difference in Newcastle disease and avian influenza between vaccinated and non-vaccinated chickens (Figures 2 and 3). It should be indicated that subcutaneous and intramuscular injection of dual Newcastle-influenza vaccine produced by Razi Institute has the same results in terms of changes in biochemical factors,

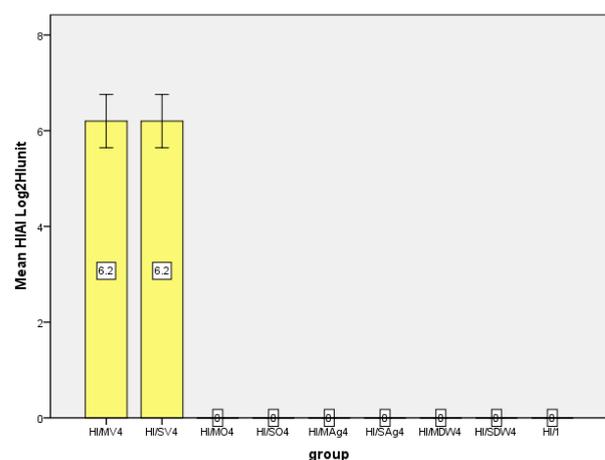
hematology and Newcastle disease and influenza titer. The presence of an appropriate adjuvant such as Montanide (ISA-70) oil is essential for immune response in order to create immunity in inactivated vaccines.



**Figure 1.** HI Test on the twenty-eighth day



**Figure 2.** HI Test for Newcastle disease on the twenty-eighth day



**Figure 3.** HI Test for avian influenza on the twenty-eighth day

Our results showed that there was no significant difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated birds in terms of biochemical parameters, and this probably means that injection of inactivated dual combination Newcastle disease and avian influenza vaccines could not change these parameters compared to control birds.

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## DISCUSSION

We applied the HI assay for Newcastle disease antibody titer in our study and the results showed that Newcastle disease antibody titer can be detected from the second week by this method. Nidhin et al. (2009) in their study, by using HI method to determine the titer showed that the Newcastle disease antibody titer in the egg yolk is significantly more than its amount in serum. We also used the HI method in our study for the influenza antibody titer, and the results showed that the influenza antibody titer could be detected from the second week by this method. Trampel et al. (2006) in a study, used ELISA and AGID to determine the antibody titers. They concluded that antibody levels appear earlier in serum, reach sooner to the peak and remain for a long time; so they preferred antibody monitoring in serum more than that on yolk samples. Alexander et al. (2014) conducted a study, used the HI assay to search and determine the antibody in the egg yolk and showed that by detecting the antibody in the egg yolk, the Newcastle virus turning can be determined in the population of geese. We used the ISA70 oil adjuvant, which could stimulate the immune system and make it to produce antibody by providing the antigen. Iqbal et al. (2008) conducted they prepared the concentrations of 50% and 60% Montanide ISA70 and evaluated the immunogenicity with haemagglutination inhibition (HI) test after injection to layer birds. And they eventually reported that the immune response of the vaccine with 60% oil was better than the vaccine containing 50%. The vaccine was used in our study had 70% adjuvant. Silva et al. (2009) conducted a study, used oil Montanide ISA-70 as an adjuvant in the ratio of 70% to make the vaccine. They concluded that this vaccine protects the vaccinated chickens against the H5N1 virus and provides long-term immunogenicity in these birds. Liu et al. (2011) used three types of adjuvants, including ISA-70, ISA-206 and mineral oil; and they used vaccine injection into SPF chickens to test the constructed vaccines; and after challenging the highly acute influenza virus, they showed that the vaccine

produced with the adjuvant ISA-70 and mineral oil could protect 100% of the chickens and the vaccine produced with ISA-206 protected only 40% of the chickens. Finally, they concluded that ISA-70 is the best adjuvant for the construction of an oil-based influenza vaccine that this type of vaccine was also used in our study.

Our results did not show any significant difference in the biochemical parameters between vaccinated and non-vaccinated groups, which was not consistent with other researchers. For example, Talebi (2006) conducted a study, used live Bronchitis, Gumboro and Newcastle vaccines at different ages in the treatment group. Then, blood samples were collected from different groups at different times and the parameters of albumin, calcium, chloride, cholesterol, glucose, magnesium, phosphorus, triglyceride and total protein were examined in the study. He concluded that the physiological values of the biochemical parameters in both groups of one-day chickens are different from its values during breeding period; and cholesterol levels on day zero are close to their values during the breeding period, while the values of other parameters are much lower than their values during the breeding period. Comparison of triglyceride, total protein and albumin values in the vaccinated group showed a significant difference with the recorded values for the control group, but other parameters were not significantly different between the two groups.

The dual Newcastle-Influenza vaccine, with the NewFluRazi brand, was used in the present study that ISA-70 has been used as an adjuvant in its construction. The aim of this study was to evaluate the changes of some hematological and biochemical parameters in the serum of injected chickens in both intramuscular and subcutaneous methods. Silva et al. (2009) assessed the immunogenicity of the inactivated oil emulsion influenza vaccine and stated that the immunity created by the oil-based vaccine in two-month chickens will remain to twelve months; and they announced the maximum visible immunity of the vaccine on the 28<sup>th</sup> day after injection, and influenza titer began to decline from 150<sup>th</sup> day. In the present study, our immunogenicity results are consistent with the above results. An effective vaccine is required to have a good antigen as well as a preferred adjuvant. Adjuvant is required to create humoral and cellular immunity, but adjuvants may also have side effects such as inflammation of the tissue, damage and pain (Silva et al., 2009). Kudair and Al-Hussary (2010)

investigated the effects of vaccination on some biochemical parameters in broiler chickens. In their study, they concluded that vaccination against Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis and Gumboro disease had significant differences in some biochemical parameters between vaccinated and non-vaccinated groups as well as in different ages; and the effect of age was clearer in the vaccinated groups. Their examination also showed that vaccination had no significant effect on the values of glucose, total protein, lipid, triglyceride, lipoprotein, high-density cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein and alanine aminotransferase activity, but the vaccinated chickens showed a significant reduction in albumin values, albumin/globulin ratio and alkaline phosphatase activity compared to control groups. However, the globulin values and the activity of the alkaline aspartate aminotransferase enzyme and lactate dehydrogenase were higher than non-vaccinated groups; no significant difference was observed among different groups in our study.

Although one of the hypotheses was the probability of the impact of Montanide oil on biochemical factors as well as the creating the effective stress on the bird, the results showed that the same results were obtained in the parameters in both subcutaneous and intramuscular injections. As well as, the results of antibody titer showed that Montanide oil was effective in its immunity and durability; and the desired antigens were not able to show the measurable titer by HI assay without that; and the immune system is probably not able to provide a detectable immune response in this way without adjuvant. The similarity of the results of distilled water injections in both subcutaneous and intramuscular injections show that contrary to the assumption, the volume of injections presents the same results, the vaccine, therefore, has the same efficacy in terms of immunogenicity and biochemical and hematological factors in both injection methods. The results of this study did not present any reason for the recommendation of subcutaneous injection. Therefore, despite the use of intramuscular injection in poultry units and vaccine producers, the recommendation for subcutaneous injection seems unnecessary; and according to these results, the vaccine can also be injected into muscle. Of course, it should be noted that this study does not comment about the adjuvant residue in muscle injection, and it certainly requires further investigating and providing documentations that the subcutaneous

injection is much safer compared to the intramuscular injection.

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## CONCLUSION

The results showed that there was no significant difference between vaccinated and non-vaccinated birds in terms of biochemical and hematological parameters. So the vaccine injection failed to change the parameters in comparison with the control birds. Also, the results showed that from the second week, HI test could detect Newcastle and Influenza Antibody Titer.

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## Investigation of some biochemical and haematological parameters in sheep infected with *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to investigate the changes in some biochemical and haematological parameters due to liver damage caused by parasites in sheep infected with *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*.

**Material and Methods:** The study was conducted on 10 healthy sheep and 60 sheep infected with *D. dendriticum*. After the blood was taken from the sheep brought to the slaughterhouse in Van Municipality, the liver and gall bladder were examined after the slaughter, and the blood of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* was brought to the laboratory and examined for some haematological and biochemical parameters.

**Results:** As a result of the examination, some changes were observed in the biochemical and haematological parameters. In statistical analysis: Haematologically compared with the healthy group of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum*; WBC, Neu, Eo and Mon values were higher than the control group's values, while RBC, Hct, Hb and MCV values were lower and no significant change was found in the Lym level.

Results of biochemical parameters of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* according to statistical analysis; ALT, AST and GGT values were higher than of the health group sheep, while serum TP, Alb and glucose values were found than lower.

**Conclusion:** As a result; WBC, Neu, Eo, Mon, ALT, AST and GGT levels in infected sheep due to dicrocoeliasis which cause important pathological disorders in liver that have functions such as synthesis, metabolism and detoxification in the organism were found to be significantly higher compared to the same values of the healthy group. It is predicted that these parameters may be useful in determining the degree and prognosis of liver damage and will shed light on the studies to be performed in this field.

**Keywords:** *Dicrocoeliasis*, Sheep, Biochemical parameters, Haematologic parameters

### INTRODUCTION

Hepatic trematode infections in sheep cause significant economic losses due to slow growth, decreased meat, milk and wool yields, suppression of the immune system and death of animals in severe infections. *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* Rudolphi, 1819, one of the liver trematodes, causes dicrocoeliasis. Dicrocoeliasis is an important disease that causes liver damage in ruminants and

causes significant economic losses in countries where sheep, goat, buffalo (Alvarez et al., 2009) and cattle breeding worldwide (Yang et al., 1998).

In dicrocoeliasis infections, it can cause severe infection in cases where the number of parasites is too high in the definitive host (Boch and Supperer, 2000; Akyol, 2001).

There is a direct relationship between the number of parasites and the symptoms that occur in animals

with dicrocoeliasis (Jithendran and Bhat, 1996). Experimentally, hepatic enzyme activities such as aspartate amino transferase (AST) and alanine amino transferase (ALT) were observed in lambs infected with 1000 and 3000 metacercariae of *D. dendriticum*. A significant correlation was found between increased hepatic enzyme activities and parasite density, and the highest activity was reported in lambs with the highest parasitic number (Manga-González and Ferreras, 2014).

Pathological injuries to the liver and gallbladder of recent hosts with dicrocoeliasis are probably caused by the toxic metabolites of the parasite and mechanical stimulation of the bile duct walls (Manga-González and Ferreras, 2014). *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*, AST, ALT, gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), albumin and total bilirubin levels increase. Infection has been reported to cause an increase in leukocyte and neutrophil counts and a decrease in lymphocyte count (Sanchez-Campos et al., 1999; Gonzalez-Lanza et al., 2000; Otranto and Traversa, 2002). In addition, it has been reported that malondialdehyde (MDA), an indicator of lipid peroxidation, increases and this causes oxidative stress (Şimşek et al., 2006).

Haematological and biochemical parameters in animal health are an important diagnostic tool for the assessment of disease by veterinarians and are also important for assessing the effectiveness of treatment in infected animals. Changes in enzyme activity in the blood are used in the clinical diagnosis of many diseases. Tissue damage in invasions caused by parasites such as *D. dendriticum* result in changes in serum enzyme activities. Especially in the toxic destruction of the liver, changing enzyme activities in the serum before shaping the clinical picture is of great importance in terms of early detection (Dağoğlu et al., 1995).

Dicrocoeliasis can also be diagnosed with ELISA, immunoelectrophoresis techniques, and changes in the liver's pathology in recent years, as well as the detection of typical trematode eggs in the stool (Ducháček and Lamka, 2003).

The aim of this study is to reveal the changes occurring in some haematological and biochemical parameters in naturally infected sheep with *D. dendriticum*, which causes significant pathological disorders in the liver.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

After the anamnesis and general examinations of sheep brought to the slaughterhouse of Van Municipality, 5 ml blood samples were taken from Vena jugularis for haematological and biochemical analyses and transferred to anticoagulant and non-anticoagulant tubes. 30-50 grams of feces were taken from the rectum for stool examination. As a result of liver, gallbladder and fecal examinations, 60 sheep blood detected as infected by dicrocoeliasis were identified as infected group, while 10 sheep blood that were detected negative for dicrocoeliasis as a result of liver, gallbladder and stool examinations were determined as healthy group.

### Fecal examination

After the liver and gall bladder were examined, the stool samples of the sheep detected to be infected were brought to Van Yuzuncu Yil University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Parasitology, and kept at -20 °C until necessary analyses were made. Benedek sedimentation method was used in the examination of stool samples (Toparlak and Tüzer, 1994).

### Haematological analysis

Blood samples taken into tubes with anticoagulants were brought to Van Yuzuncu Yil University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine on the same day and red blood cell (RBC), white blood cell (WBC), lymphocyte (Lym), monocytes (Mon), neutrophil (Neu), eosinophil (Eo), MCV (mean cell volume), hematocrit (Hct) and hemoglobin (Hb) haematological parameters were analysed by blood counting device (Veterinary MS4-S-Melet).

### Biochemical analysis

Blood samples taken into anti-coagulated tubes were centrifuged at 3000 g for 5 minutes. The sera obtained were stored at -20 °C until biochemical parameters were analysed. ALT, AST, GGT, GLU (Glucose), albumin (Alb) and total protein (TP) levels were measured by commercial kits using auto analyser (BS-120 Vet-Mindray).

### Statistical Analysis

Descriptive statistics for the characteristics of haematological and biochemical parameters of infected and healthy sheep with *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*; Mean, standard deviation were given as minimum and maximum values. Student's t test was used to compare the groups. Pearson correlation analysis was performed to determine

linear relationships between variables. Statistical significance level was accepted as 5% and SPSS (ver: 13) statistical program was used for all statistical calculations.

## RESULTS

The results of haematological parameters of sheep infected with healthy sheep group and *D. dendriticum* are given in Table 1. In statistical analysis; WBC, Neu, Eo and Mon values of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were higher than those of the healthy sheep group, while RBC, Hct, Hb and MCV values were lower than the healthy sheep group.

**Table 1.** Haematological parameters of healthy and *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* infected sheep

Parameters	Healthy Group	Infected Sheep	p<
WBC (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	8.60 <sup>a</sup>	14.12 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Lym (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	3.64 <sup>a</sup>	4.31 <sup>a</sup>	0.057
Mon (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.57 <sup>a</sup>	0.69 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Neu (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	5.16 <sup>a</sup>	9.19 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Eo (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	0.39 <sup>a</sup>	0.74 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
RBC (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	10.41 <sup>a</sup>	9.13 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
MCV (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	27.91 <sup>a</sup>	23.93 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Hct (%) (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	26.33 <sup>a</sup>	22.38 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Hb (g/dl) (m/mm <sup>3</sup> )	12.94 <sup>a</sup>	8.77 <sup>b</sup>	0.001

a, b: p<0.05 and a, a: p>0.05 were defined as statistical significance between the parameters on the same line and named with different letters

**Table 2.** Biochemical parameters of healthy and *Dicrocoelium dendriticum* infected sheep

Parameters	Healthy Group	Infected Sheep	p<
ALT (U/L)	17.17 <sup>a</sup>	32.08 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
AST (U/L)	92.77 <sup>a</sup>	154.68 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
GGT (U/L)	52.24 <sup>a</sup>	81.21 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
TP (g/dl)	6.57 <sup>a</sup>	4.79 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
Alb (g/dl)	2.64 <sup>a</sup>	1.71 <sup>b</sup>	0.001
GLU (mg/dl)	71.75 <sup>a</sup>	59.18 <sup>b</sup>	0.004

a, b: p<0.05 was defined as the statistical significance between the parameters on the same line and named with different letters

Results of biochemical parameters of sheep infected with healthy sheep group and *D. dendriticum* are given in Table 2. According to statistical analysis, ALT, AST and GGT values of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were found to be high according to the same parameters of healthy sheep, while serum TP, Alb and glucose (GLU) values were found low.

## DISCUSSION

Studies on haematological and biochemical parameters in sheep that are naturally infected with *D. dendriticum* are limited and little information is available. Changes in biochemical parameters of animals have been reported in parasitic infections (Değer et al., 1997; Şahin and Akgül, 2006). Experimentally, an increase in serum ALT and AST levels has been reported in mice infected with *D. dendriticum* (Sánchez-Campos et al., 1999). Yuksek et al. (2007), reported that there was an increase in serum ALT and AST levels in sheep infected with endoparasites. In *D. dendriticum* infected sheep, RBC, Lym, Hb and Hct values were significantly lower compared to the same parameters of healthy animals, WBC, neutrophil, eosinophil and MCV values were significantly higher than infection. Also, no significant changes were reported in MCH, monocyte and basophil counts. (Kaneko et al., 1997; Kramer, 2000; Matanović et al., 2007). In this study, in addition to the changes in serum Tp, Alb, GLU, AST, ALT and GGT levels in sheep infected with *D. dendriticum*; changes in WBC, Lym, Mon, Neu, Eo, RBC, MCV, Hc and Hb concentrations were examined. In the study, WBC, Neu, Eo and Mon levels of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were significantly higher than healthy sheep group. In addition, RBC, Hct, Hb and MCV of infected sheep were significantly lower than those of the healthy sheep group, but there was no significant change in Lym. In our study, haematologic data obtained from sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were similar to those of the researchers (Kaneko et al., 1997; Kramer, 2000; Matanović et al., 2007).

*D. dendriticum*, which is the liver trematode of sheep, causes damage to the liver parenchymal tissue and fibrosis in the bile duct (Calleja et al., 2000). Serum AST and LDH activities reflect damage during the passage of young parasites throughout the liver parenchyma, while GGT increases provide information on the penetration of trematodes in the bile ducts (Gonzalo-Orden et al., 2003). Serum ALT is an enzyme normally found only in hepatocytes, while the AST enzyme is restricted to hepatocytes, red blood cells, cardiac and skeletal muscles; GGT is limited to hepatocytes; ALP bile ducts, bone and an intra hepatic enzyme found in the lining cells of the placenta. While serum ALT is normally found only in hepatocytes, AST enzyme is limited to hepatocytes in hepatocytes, red blood cells, cardiac and skeletal muscles, while GGT is limited to hepatocytes, while ALP and an intra-hepatic enzyme found in the lining cells of the placenta.

These enzymes are used as biological markers of hepatic disorders (Manga-González et al., 2004; Al-Hadithy et al., 2013). Serum glutamate dehydrogenase (GLDH) and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT) have been reported as the most sensitive markers of liver cell damage (Anderson et al., 1977). Some investigators have reported that plasma GLDH and GGT activities are more sensitive indicators of liver cell damage than AST activity in chronic and subclinical dicrocoeliasis (Sykes et al., 1980). However, GGT stability is reported to be a more important indicator in determining the level of damage in liver tissue due to the higher trematode infections (Blood et al., 1989; Gonzalo-Orden et al., 2003; Phiri et al., 2007; Raadsma et al., 2008). This decrease in plasma enzyme activities can be used to monitor the effectiveness of treatment in trematode infections (Gaasenbeek et al., 2001). In this study, ALT, AST and GGT values of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were found to be higher than those of healthy sheep. Increases in ALT, AST, and GGT concentrations of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* have been investigated by researchers (Gaasenbeek et al., 2001; Gonzalo-Orden et al., 2003; Phiri et al., 2007; Severin et al., 2012).

Liver trematodes reduce glycogen reservoir in organ due to tissue damage both in hepatocytes and during migration of parenchymal tissue (Phiri et al., 2007). In studies on liver diseases, serum glucose levels are reported to be significantly lower than in healthy animals (Yadav and Sharma, 1986; Baghshani et al., 2012). In this study, the serum GLU levels of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* were found to be lower than the healthy sheep group. It is thought that low GLU concentration in sheep with dicrocoeliasis may result from the use of GLU by *D. dendriticum* and the lack of sufficient glycogen reservoir due to hepatic dysfunction caused by *D. dendriticum* infection. The data obtained on the serum GLU levels of sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* support the data of the researchers (Yadav and Sharma, 1986; Phiri et al., 2007; Baghshani et al., 2012).

Hypoalbumin has been detected in hepatic infections and injuries and liver trematode infections (Thomas, 2000; Bosy-Westphal et al., 2001; Matanović et al., 2007). In studies, biochemical parameters in non-infected healthy sheep group were reported to be within the reference range (Kaneko et al., 1997; Kramer, 2000). In the study of sheep with dicrocoeliasis, serum total protein and albumin concentrations were reported to be lower

than in healthy animals (Thomas, 2000; Matanović et al., 2007). In this study, total serum and albumin levels of sheep with dicrocoeliasis were found to be low, and it is in line with the results of the investigators (Thomas, 2000; Matanović et al., 2007).

## CONCLUSION

*D. dendriticum*, which can be overlooked in organ aspects due to its morphological small size, causes both loss of yield in live animals and destruction of the liver due to the damage it causes in the liver, and in the case of infection with this parasite in animals, disturbances in the body's natural chemistry can occur. In this study, changes in some biochemical parameters in sheep with dicrocoeliasis were examined and evaluated statistically. In particular, increase in WBC, Neu, Eo and Mon values and decrease in RBC, Hct, Hb and MCV values were found to be statistically significant.

In the study, it has been determined that some haematological and biochemical parameters cause significant changes in sheep infected with *D. dendriticum* and we believe that it will shed light on the future studies.

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## Characterization in Two Indonesian *Bos indicus* Cattle Breeds Based on Morphometrical Measurements

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The aim of this study was carried out to obtain the discriminant variables between Pasundan and Ongole bulls through morphometrical measurements.

**Materials and Methods:** Six morphometric traits of chest girth (CG), withers height (WH), body length (BL), chest depth (CD), hip height (HH) and rump width (RW) were performed in this study. Total of 110 bulls (72 Pasundan and 38 Ongole) from West Java Province of Indonesia were used in this study.

**Results:** The stepwise discriminant analysis showed that three morphometrical measurements of CG, BL and CD had strong discriminating power to characterize of both breeds. The discriminant function obtained correctly classified 87.5% for Pasundan and 100% for Ongole (with canonical correlation of 0.81).

**Discussion:** Pasundan and Ongole bulls can be characterized using discriminant analysis with at least three morphometrical measurements of CG, BL and CD. Therefore, about 12.5% of morphological characteristics in Pasundan bulls was closed to Ongole bulls.

**Keywords:** *Bos indicus*, Discriminant analysis, Morphometrical measurements, Indonesia

### INTRODUCTION

Pasundan and Ongole cattle were included of *Bos indicus* breed that adapted well in Indonesia. Both cattle were kept by the farmers as beef cattle. Selection program in both cattle can be started with breed characterization. Breed characterization is important to evaluate livestock performance for developing breed standard in the future. Breed characterization can be performed based on molecular genetic and morphometric. Hartatik et al. (2019) reported that Pasundan and Bali cattle (*Bos javanicus*) had similar of Cytochrome-b gene (mtDNA) sequence. According to Cytochrome Oxidase Sub-unit 1 (COI) gene (mtDNA) Pasundan cattle closed to Madura (*Bos indicus*) cattle (Wulandari et al., 2019). Thus, Agung et al. (2019)

reported the genetic distance of Pasundan cattle was closed to the Madura (0.89) and followed by Ongole (1.96) based on microsatellite markers. However, the characterization of livestock must be supported by morphometric analysis. Breed characterization using morphometrical measurements is easily and cheaply to apply in the smallholds.

Breed characterization by morphometrical measurements can be performed with many statistical analyses such as multivariate analysis (cluster analysis), principal component analysis (PCA) and canonical discriminant analysis (Carneiro et al., 2010). The morphometrical measurements has been widely used for breed characterization of livestock (Cazar, 2003). Hence,

the discriminant analysis is one of statistical method has been proved to be assessing the variation within population or breed and can characterize of different population or breed based on morphometrical measurements (Boujenane et al., 2016).

Previous studies worked with morphometrical measurements to characterize breeds of ruminant livestock i.e. cattle (Pundir et al., 2015; Yakubu et al., 2014), goat (Bolaceli et al., 2017; Hamdan et al., 2018), sheep (Carneiro et al., 2010; Asamoah-Boaheng and Sam, 2016; Dauda et al., 2018) and buffalo (Rezende et al., 2017). Recently, study of breed characterization among Indonesian native cattle based on morphometrical measurements was not reported. Therefore, the aim of this study was to obtain morphological characterization in two *Bos indicus* cattle breeds of Indonesia (Pasundan and Ongole) using discriminant analysis. The results of this study can be used as supported information for phylogenetic studies in Indonesian native cattle in the future.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

### Data collection

Data used in this study were obtained from 110 *Bos indicus* bulls consisted of 72 Pasundan and 38 Ongole bulls (Figure 1). The morphometric data of Ongole bulls and 15 Pasundan bulls were collected from breeding station (BPPIB-SP Ciamis, West Java). This station located at longitude 108°20' to 108°40' E and latitude 7°40'20" to 7°41'20" S with 20-500 above the sea level. The air temperature about 25-35°C with air humidity 45-80% and rainfall intensity about 1,680 mm/year. Meanwhile, morphometric data of the other Pasundan bulls were collected from smallholders. In addition, all animals had 2 or 3 pairs permanent incisors.

### Studied traits

Six morphometrical measures were taken from each animals i.e. chest girth (CG) withers height (WH), body length (BL), chest depth (CD), hip height (HH) and rump width (RW). CG was measured with a tape measure as circumference of the chest just behind the foreleg (fourth *os costa*). WH was measured from the behind of *os scapulla* at dorsal point to the ground. BL was measured from from *tuber humerus* to *tuber ischium*. CD was measured from from the behind of *os scapulla* at dorsal to ventral points. HH was measured from from *os coxae* or *tuber coxae* to the ground. RW was measured from left and right of the *tuber coxae*. All

measurements were taken by measuring stick and taken from the right side of the animal.

### Statistical analysis

Canonical discriminant analysis were used to obtain some variable as the discriminator variable based on the canonical structure or canonical correlation values. This analysis has been used for the genetic distance estimation between livestock populations or breeds through Mahalanobis distance analysis (Hamdan et al., 2018). The genetic distance of Mahalanobis as the minimum quadratic square distance ( $D^2$ ) and can be presented in the following model:

$$D^2 = (\bar{X}_i - \bar{X}_j)C^{-1}(\bar{X}_i - \bar{X}_j)$$

In this model,  $\bar{X}_i$  is the vector of average observation for  $i^{\text{th}}$  group in each variable;  $\bar{X}_j$  is the vector of average observation for  $j^{\text{th}}$  group in each variable and  $C^{-1}$  is the inverse matrix of variance-covariance between variables (Nei, 1987). Each discriminant function consisted of a linear combination ( $Z$ ) of the independent variable ( $Y_i$ ) in order to maximize the correlation between  $Z$  and  $Y_i$ . Linear combination of a discriminant function can be represented in the following model:

$$Z = \mu_0 + \mu_1 Y_1 + \mu_2 Y_2 + \mu_3 Y_3 + \dots + \mu_i Y_i$$

In this model,  $\mu_i$  is the estimated canonical coefficient for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  data and  $Y_i$  is the independent variables of  $i^{\text{th}}$  data (Arandas et al., 2017). Discriminant analysis has been used to characterize species into statistically different groups based on morphometric traits. The canonical discriminant analysis was performed in this study using SPSS 16.0 statistical package.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average of CG, CD, HH and RW of Ongole bulls were higher than Pasundan bulls but not significantly different as presented in Table 1. The stepwise discriminant analysis showed that CD, BL and CG were the most discriminating variables between Pasundan and Ongole bulls (Table 2). When the three most important morphometrical measurements for discriminating the two cattle breeds were selected, Wilk's Lambda ( $\lambda$ ) and Mahalanobis distance ( $D^2$ ) dropped to 0.37 and 7.30 respectively with a significant difference between the two cattle breeds ( $F = 9.49$ ). The unstandardized stepwise discriminant function was used to classify individual cattle. The three discriminating variables earlier extracted were the variables included in the discriminant ( $D$ ) equation:  $D = -$

5.06+0.05(CG)-0.05(BL)+0.10(CD) as presented in Table 3. Hence, the canonical correlation in this study was 0.81 (very high category). While 100% of Ongole bulls were classified into their source population.

**Table 1.** Descriptive statistic of the morphometric traits of Pasundan and Ongole bulls

Morphometric (cm)	Pasundan (Mean±SD)	Ongole (Mean±SD)
Chest girth	135.20±9.71	154.13±11.97
Withers height	125.31±6.56	124.74±6.70
Body length	128.46±11.02	123.97±11.58
Chest depth	39.69±8.28	58.37±5.16
Hip height	128.49±6.54	130.82±6.39
Rump width	31.07±3.44	33.42±3.57

**Table 2.** Morphometrical characters selected by stepwise discriminant analysis to characterize Pasundan and Ongole bulls

Step	Variables entered	Tolerance	F-remove	Min. D Squared	Wilk's Lambda (λ)
1	Chest depth	0.67	30.42	5.52	0.44
2	Body length	0.74	16.40	6.64	0.40
3	Chest girth	0.52	9.49	7.30	0.37

**Table 3.** Canonical discriminant function coefficients

Parameter	Function 1
Constant	-5.06
Chest girth	0.05
Body length	-0.05
Chest depth	0.10

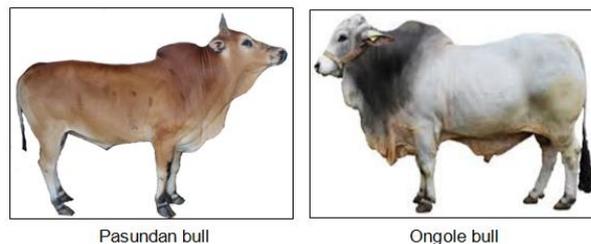
**Table 4.** Percentage (%) of individual classification per breed based on discriminant analysis

Breed	Predicted group membership (N)		Total (N)
	Pasundan	Ongole	
Pasundan	87.5 (63)	12.5 (9)	100.0 (72)
Ongole	0.0 (0)	100.0 (38)	100.0 (38)

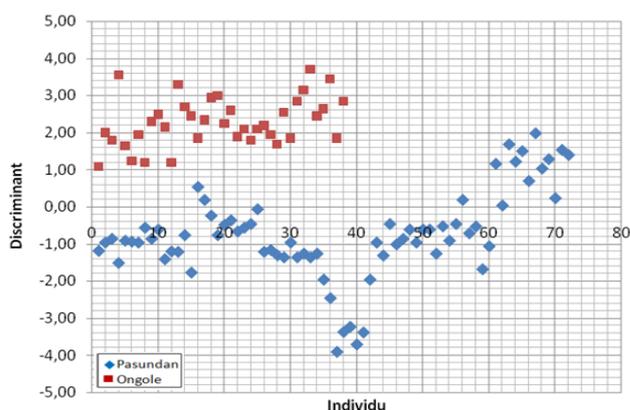
N: number of animal

In Pasundan bulls, 87.5% of the individuals (63 animals) were classified into their origin populational, and 12.5% were classed as individuals of Ongole bulls (9 animals) as presented in Table 4. According to discriminant score (D), the breed characterization in this study was obtained

two groups with positive D score for Ongole breed and negative D scores for Pasundan breed (Figure 2).



**Figure 1.** Two *Bos indicus* cattle breeds of Indonesia



**Figure 2.** Canonical discriminant plot in the morphological characterization between Pasundan and Ongole bulls

Three morphological measurements of CD, BL and CG were important variable to characterize Pasundan and Ongole bulls. Yakubu et al. (2010) obtained three morphometrical measurements of RW, WH and face length (FL) as the strong variables to characterize Bunaji and Sokoto Gudali cattle. Pundir et al. (2015) obtained 6 morphometrical measurements of WH, BL, FL, ear length (EL), tail length (TL) and paunch girth (PG) as the strong variables to characterize Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur cattle. Dauda et al. (2018) obtained canonical correlation of 0.71 (high category) with 14 morphometrical measurements to characterize Balomi, Karoji, Uda and Yankasa sheeps. Nafti et al. (2014) obtained canonical correlation of 0.51 (moderate) with six morphometrical measurements to characterize Arbi and Serti goats. Asamoah-Boaheng and Sam (2016) obtained canonical correlation of 0.89 (very high) with 16 morphometrical measurements to characterize Djallonke, Sahel and crosses sheeps. In addition, Yakubu et al. (2010) obtained the D<sup>2</sup> value of 7.19 between Bunaji and Sokoto Gudali cattle and close to this study. Pundir et al. (2015) obtained the D<sup>2</sup>

value among three Indian cattle breeds about 9.73 (Tripura-Mizoram), 5.72 (Tripura-Manipur) and 4.65 (Mizoram-Manipur) using eight variables. In addition, Rezende et al. (2017) obtained the  $D^2$  value among three Brazilian buffalo breeds that lower than in this study i.e. 4.48 (Jafarabadi-Murrah), 3.31 (Jafarabadi-Mediterranean) and 0.37 (Murrah-Mediterranean) using 11 variables. The tolerance values obtained in the present study were greater than 0.1 and indicated no collinearity problem among discriminator variables (Yakubu et al., 2010) among discriminator variables. The three discriminator variables extracted were sufficiently to characterize two cattle breeds. The morphometrical measurements may considerably increase the reliability of the classification of different cattle breeds. In addition, Yakubu et al. (2010) obtained 85.48% (Bunaji) and 96.55% (Sokoto Gudali) of individual cattle into their different groups. Pundir et al. (2015) used discriminant analysis to classify Tripura (84.13%), Mizoram (82.09%) and Manipur (79.87%) cattle in their source population. Nine Pasundan bulls in this study showed misclassification and can be caused by genetic flow from Ongole cattle as reported by Agung et al. (2019).

## CONCLUSION

Pasundan and Ongole bulls can be characterized using discriminant analysis with at least three morphometrical measurements of CG, BL and CD. Therefore, about 12.5% of morphological characteristics in Pasundan bulls was closed to Ongole bulls. The morphometrical measurements in this study can be used for field assessment, management and conservation in both cattle breeds to obtain phenotypically pure local genetic resources and breeding improvement strategies in the future.

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## Effect of Pendulous Crop on Certain Clinicopathological and Biochemical Parameters in Japanese Quails

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### ABSTRACT

In this case report, clinicopathological findings and certain biochemical parameters were presented in quails with the pendulous crop. The animal material of the study consists of a total of 3 Japanese quails (*Coturnix coturnix japonica*). The quails were examined clinically first, followed by the post-mortem examinations. The investigations of Na, K, Mg, total TP and Alb were conducted using autoanalyzer. The plasma levels of sodium, potassium, magnesium, total protein and albumin in the blood samples collected from the animals were found to be higher than the averages for quails. Postmortem examination of quails has revealed that the veins of their crops were prominently pronounced and that the crops were filled with a yellowish, foul-odor liquid containing whole grain particles. Furthermore, the crop mucosa of an animal contained ulcerative lesions. As a result, it was found that certain mineral levels and protein profiles of animals were affected by the pendulous crop phenomenon, and that laboratory findings should be considered alongside physical findings when dealing with it.

**Keywords:** Quail, Pendulous crop, Clinicopathologic, Biochemical parameters

### INTRODUCTION

The pendulous crop is a physiological disorder characterized by abnormal dilatation of the crops of poultry animals, and its etiology is still unknown (Ebling et al., 2015; Qasim et al., 2015). Once the crop dilates and prolapses it can't return to its normal posture which is the characteristic symptom of the disease. It is reported that this phenomenon is most commonly encountered turkeys (Arda et al., 1990; Venkatasivakumar et al., 2016; Gonder, 2018), but its incidence in broilers have also reportedly increased in recent years (Ebling et al., 2015), and it can even rarely be encountered in quails (Al-Soudi et al., 1974; Hurst, 1978).

While the cause of the disease is not exactly known, it is reported that hereditary causes are the most significant factor (Hinshaw and Asmundson, 1936;

Asmundson and Hinshaw, 1937; Willems et al., 2014; Gonder, 2018). Besides genetic susceptibility, extended periods of hot weathers and excessive water consumption due to this heat are reported as preparative factors (Asmundson and Hinshaw, 1937; Willems et al., 2014). Furthermore, in some cases of the disease encountered in broilers, it was found to be related to the presence of Marek's disease or parasites (Ebling et al., 2015).

The feed consumption of diseased animals does not change significantly, but the digestion slows down nevertheless, and the contents can't be sent to the gizzard at the normal rate, causing malnourishment and dehydration (Arda et al., 1990; Ebling et al., 2015). The weakening of the crop and its supportive tissues in animals in this condition causes the crop to sag, resulting in the pendulous crop (Willems et al., 2014). The enlargement rate of the crop depends

on the course and extent of the disease. In most cases, a semi-liquid content is present inside the crop (Arda et al., 1990; Qasim et al., 2015; Venkatasivakumar et al., 2016). In some cases, the crop content is watery and sour-smelling, while in others it may have the consistency of mud (Venkatasivakumar et al., 2016; Gonder, 2018). In advanced forms of the disease, necrotic ulcers can be noticed. Scraping of the necrotic tissue over the crop reveals the bleeding parts below (Arda et al., 1990). In most cases, treatment of the diseased poultry is in vain (Bacon, 1968; Qasim et al., 2015). Hereditary methods and management are reported as the two main approaches to preventing the disease (Bacon, 1968; Willems et al., 2014). The animals with pendulous crop should be removed from the facilities, and they shouldn't be used for breeding, whether they are male or female. Improvement of animal raising conditions is most important, and attention to shadow areas, water presence and, proper diet is also significant in hot regions (Bacon, 1968).

In this case, it was aimed to investigate the clinicopathological findings and certain biochemical parameters of quails diagnosed with the pendulous crop.

### CASE HISTORY

The animal material of the study consists of a total of 3 Japanese quails (*Coturnix coturnix japonica*) of 4 to 6-week ages, of which 2 were females and 1 was a male. The quails were examined clinically first, followed by the post-mortem examinations. The blood samples for the biochemical analyzes were collected during the slaughtering of the animals. The samples were taken into non-anticoagulant tubes, which were centrifuged in 3000 rpm for 10 minutes and were transferred into 1.5 ml microtubes. The samples were kept in -20 °C till their analysis. The investigations of sodium (Na), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg), total protein (TP) and albumin (Alb) were conducted using autoanalyzer (ADVIA 1800 Chemistry System, Germany).

Inspections have revealed that the ventral part of the animals' necks was abnormally dilated, and their crops were full and bulging (Fig. 1A). Dehydration was also detected in the quails. Postmortem examination of quails has revealed that the veins of their crops were prominently apparent and the crops were filled with a yellowish, foul-odor liquid containing whole grain particles (Fig.

1B). Ulcerative areas were detected in the crop mucosa of a quail (Fig. 1C). Duodenum, jejunum, and ileum of the animals were found to be empty (Fig. 1D). The results of biochemical examinations are shown in Table 1. As can be seen in Table 1, the Na, K, Mg, TP, and Alb levels of both male and female quails were found to be higher than their counterparts in the literature.

**Table 1.** Serum biochemical parameters in Japanese quails.

Biochemical Parameters	Cases			References
	I (Male)	II (Female)	III (Female)	
Na (mmol/l)	144	145	147	142.60 ± 8.55 <sup>a</sup>
K (mmol/l)	4.50	3.60	3.50	2.40 ± 0.76 <sup>a</sup>
Mg (mg/dL)	5.07	4.26	5.41	3.77 ± 0.16 <sup>b</sup>
TP (g/dL)	2.60	2.90	3.50	2.40 ± 0.10 <sup>c</sup>
Alb (g/dL)	1.20	1.30	1.50	0.90 ± 0.00 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>: (Suchý et al., 2010), <sup>b</sup>: (Karabulut and Eren, 2006), <sup>c</sup>: (Tufan et al., 2015)

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

While the pendulous crop disease is reported to be most commonly encountered in turkeys (Venkatasivakumar et al., 2016; Gonder, 2018), its incidence in broilers have also reportedly increased in recent years (Ebling et al., 2015). There are a limited number of studies reporting the disease for the quails (Al-Soudi et al., 1974; Hurst, 1978).

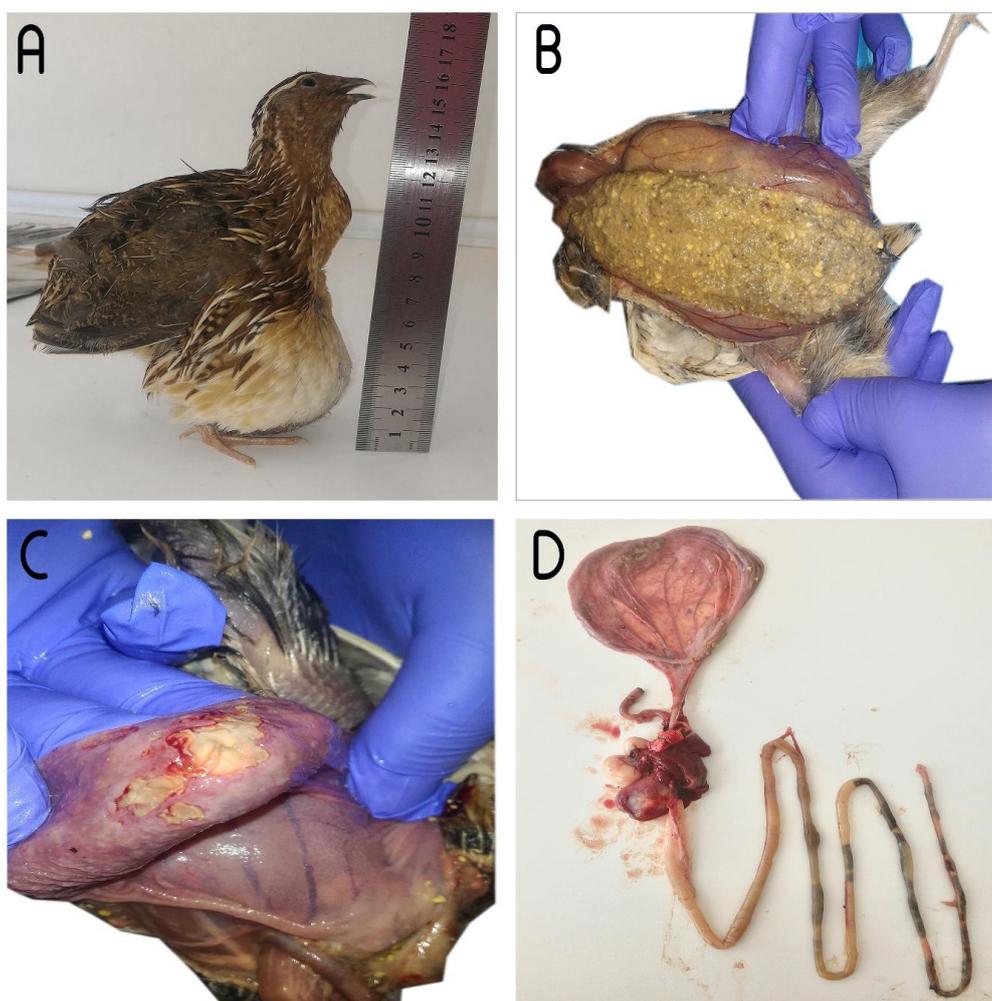
Some researchers have reported that extended periods of hot weathers played an important role for the occurrence of the disease, besides the genetic susceptibility of the animals (Hinshaw and Asmundson, 1936; Asmundson and Hinshaw, 1937; Willems et al., 2014). Pendulous crop cases in this study were detected in Siirt province. The weather of the province has the semi-arid climate classification. The lowest and highest average temperatures in summers are 36.9 °C and 18.9 °C, respectively. Water shortages are common during summer months. It is possible that the very hot summer months of the Siirt province climate could have played a role in the occurrence of the pendulous crop disease in quails.

In their studies of the disease in turkeys, the researchers (Bacon, 1968; Qasim et al., 2015) have reported that the crops were initially slightly swollen, and the swelling increased as the disease progressed. Qasim et al. (2015) have reported that one of the turkeys with pendulous crop was languid, anorexic, and recumbent, and a foul-odor

liquid was being discharged from its mouth. Similar to the findings of these researchers, abnormally swollen ventral neck sections were present in our study as well, and palpations revealed content-filled and swollen crops.

In their postmortem inspections, Qasim et al. (2015) have found that one of the turkeys with pendulous crop condition had an enlarged crop filled with soft content, and the veins of the crop were prominently apparent. When they incised the crop, the content was noticeably full of a liquid containing whole grain particles, while the duodenum, jejunum, and

ileum of the animal were found to be empty. Bacon (1968) reports that postmortem crop content had a sour odor and the walls of the crop were thinner than normal. Rigdon et al. (1960) have reported that some degenerative objects had caused ulcers in the inner part of the crop, and the muscles around the crop were weaker than usual. The findings of the swollen crop, prominent crop veins, crop content containing whole grain particles, and empty duodenum, jejunum, and ileum in our study, along with the ulcerative areas in the crop mucosa of one of the quails, is consistent with the findings of the other researchers.



**Figure 1.** (A) Pendulous crop in male quail, (B) semi-liquid crop content with grain particles, (C) ulcerative areas in the crop mucosa, (D) Empty bowels

Al-Soudi et al. (1974) report that the quail chicks that were separated into a group for a low protein (17.9%) glucose monohydrate-soybean meal diet displayed 44.0% pendulous crop occurrence, compared to 11.8% of the control group fed with normal ration. Wheeler et al. (1957) were able to experimentally create pendulous crop in animals by

using either starch or diet purified by glucose monohydrates. Since the content of the feed used for feeding the quails in this study was in accordance with the requirements of the National Research Council (NRC, 1994), it can be surmised that the pendulous crops that occurred in our study couldn't have originated from the diet.

The monitoring of biochemical indicators in blood samples from poultry is now a routine part of experimental studies in veterinary medicine and animal husbandry. Blood parameters are influenced by many factors such as genotype, age, physiological status, gender, diet, micro and macro climate conditions, growth method, seasons and pathological factors (Suchý et al., 2010).

In a study that investigated the clinicopathologic characteristics of pendulous crops observed in turkeys, it was found that the protein and glucose levels of diseased turkeys had slightly increased compared to the reference values (Qasim et al., 2015). In the present study, total protein and albumin levels were found to be higher than the values reported by Tufan et al. (2015).

In broiler chicks, the muscles around the crop are damaged due to the increased tension caused by the sagging, and as the weakened muscles are unable to transfer the nutrients to the proventriculus, dehydration and malnourishment begin to occur (Ebling et al., 2015). Dehydration is basically defined as the reduction in total intra and/or extracellular liquids due to reduced liquid intake or increased liquid discharge and is a common symptom that develops during the course of numerous diseases. In addition to increased hematocrit, hemoglobin, serum TP and albumin concentrations in dehydrated animals, significant deviations can occur in the serum electrolyte concentration and acid-base balance of the blood. In cases of dehydration, it is possible that serum Na and K concentrations will stay at normal levels, but they may get increased or reduced as well (Aktaş, 2007). In this study, the increase in serum TP, albumin, Na, K, and Mg levels in male and female quails diagnosed with pendulous crop could be due to dehydration caused by the incapability of transferring the nutrients to the proventriculus.

Pendulous crop cases were detected in 1 male and 2 female quails in this study. This distribution might be caused by the fact that females usually consume more feed than males. This difference in feed consumption arises due to the hormonal changes occurring in the male quails in 30 to 40 days of age which initiate the sexual activities. This period also coincides with the formation of social hierarchy in the covey, causing increased stress in male quails. Due to all these developments, males of this age consume less feed compared to females (Seker et al., 2007; Bolacali and Irak, 2017; Tufan and Bolacali, 2017). The relatively higher feed consumption

amount may explain why pendulous crop incidence is higher in the females.

As a result, in this case report, it was found that certain mineral levels and protein profiles of animals were affected by the pendulous crop phenomenon, and that laboratory findings should be considered alongside physical findings when dealing with it. It was also surmised that it could be possible to reduce the incidence of the disease by improving animal care and nutrition conditions.

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## A Case of Pyometra In A 5-Month-Old Cat

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### ABSTRACT

Pyometra is an inflammation of the uterus which is characterized by purulent to sanguinopurulent intraluminal contents. Pyometra has been mostly observed in queens older than 6 years but it has no age predilection. The average age of cats with pyometra is between 5 - 7 years. Traditionally queens reach puberty at a bodyweight of 2.3-2.5 kg. Here in this case we have a 5-month-old cat which has not experienced oestrus but yet developed a pyometra. In this case ovariohysterectomy was performed on this queen. The treatment procedure continued with fluid therapy and antibiotics.

**Keywords:** Pyometra, Queen, *E. coli*, Kitten

### INTRODUCTION

Pyometra is a common disease of adult intact female dogs and cats and it is characterized by an acute or chronic suppurative bacterial infection of the uterus (Dow, 1959; Hagman and Greko, 2005). Ovarian hormones are considered the main factors in pyometra development and progesterone is assumed to be the primary factor of its pathogenesis (Maria dos Anjos Pires et al., 2016). But, the etiopathogenesis of pyometra is still not fully understood (Hagman, 2018). Progesterone plays an important role in the pathogenesis of infection for this reason the disease generally develops in the luteal phase or during pseudopregnancy which is a phase of progesterone dominance that lasts approximately 40 days (Hagman, 2018; Hollinshead and Krekeler, 2016). Opportunistic bacterias are responsible for the disease and *E. coli* is the most frequently isolated one from these pathogens (Hagman and Greko, 2005). Other bacterias are also included in the pathogenesis of queen pyometra, including *Streptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*,

*Klebsiella*, *Pasteurella*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Proteus* species (Rebordão et al., 2017).

The incidence of pyometra is thought to be lower in cats than dogs, because queens are induced ovulators. Pyometra can occur in queens between the ages of 1-20, most commonly around 5-7 years old (Hollinshead and Krekeler, 2016).

Purulent, sanguinopurulent vaginal discharge was observed in 50-86% of open feline pyometra. Vaginal discharge is not observed in closed pyometra and lethargy, anorexia, polydipsia, polyuria and vomiting are among the reported symptoms. Abdominal ultrasound is considered the best tool for the diagnosis of pyometra (Hollinshead and Krekeler, 2016; Davidson and Black, 2015.)

Medical or surgical treatment can be applied depending on the condition of the patient in pyometra cases. Broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy should start immediately after diagnosis in all pyometra cases. Surgery can be performed once the patient has been stabilized and surgical risk is

minimized. The most common treatment of pyometra is the surgical method.

The presented report describes the clinical presentation of pyometra in an intact 5-month-old queen and results of bacterial culture and sensitivity testing.

### CASE

A 5-month-old kitten, weighing 2.3 kg, was admitted to Small Animal Hospital, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Ankara with a history of purulent vaginal discharge for a few days. And also the only knowledge about the patient's history is the cat fell down from the height a few months ago and the veterinarian used oral antibiotics and the owner has been using multi-vitamin paste for the cat about a month for treatment.

A general examination was performed and usual/specific symptoms of pyometra have not been noticed. During the ultrasonographic examination the uterus was distended with fluid. According to the owner of the patient, the cat hasn't experienced oestrus or received estrogen or progesterone compounds. The diagnosis of the case was open-cervix pyometra.

Ovariohysterectomy is one of the treatment procedures of pyometra. At the owner's request, ovariohysterectomy was our choice instead of medical treatment. Before the surgery, we collected blood samples for biochemical tests and Complete Blood Count (CBC) and the animal was found to be stable for surgery (Table 1, Table 2). General anesthesia was induced with medetomidine (Medetomidin, Domitor®, Pfizer®, Finland) and maintained with ketamine (ketamine hydrochloride, Ketazol® 10%, Richter Pharma Ag, Austria). We positioned the patient in dorsal recumbency for a ventral midline celiotomy, clipped the entire ventral abdomen and prepared for aseptic surgery. Ovariohysterectomy operation was performed and both ovaries and both horns of the uterus were removed. During surgery intravenous antibiotic (Ampicillin + Sulbactam, Sulbaksit 500 mg Im/IV, Tüm Ekip İlaç A.Ş., Türkiye) treatment was applied. 45 minutes after the medetomidine injection, atipamezole hydrochloride (Atipamezole, Antisedan®, Pfizer®, Finland) was injected. After the surgery horns were dissected and purulent discharge was collected (Figure 1). *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella* spp. have been isolated with microbiological examination.

**Table 1.** Serum Biochemical Analysis

Parameters	Measured Value	Laboratory Reference Range
Urea (mg/dl)	47.5	42.80 – 64.20
Creatinin (mg/dl)	0.72	0.80 -1.80
Albumin (g/dL)	2.36	2.40 – 3.80
ALT (IU/L)	27.0	0.00 – 50.00
AST (IU/L)	16.0	0.00 – 40.00
CK (IU/L)	80.0	0.00 – 130.00

ALT: Alanine aminotransferase, AST: Aspartate aminotransferase, ALP: Alkaline phosphatase

**Table 2.** Hematological Analysis

Parameters	Measured Value	Laboratory Reference Range
WBC	12.50	5.50 – 19.50
LYM	3.60	1.10 – 7.00
MONO	1.00	0.20 – 1.50
NEUT	7.60	2.80 – 13.00
EOS	0.30	0.10 – 99.90
LYM%	28.90	15.00 – 60.00
MONO%	7.70	0.50 – 11.00
NEUT%	61.10	25.00 – 85.00
EOS%	2.30	0.10 – 99.90
RBC	7.77	5.00 – 11.00
HGB	11.50	8.00 – 15.00
HCT	25.60	25.00 – 45.00
MCV	32.90	39.00 – 50.00
MCH	14.80	12.50 – 17.50
MCHC	45.10	31.00 – 38.50
RDWa	17.40	20.00 – 35.00
RDW%	16.70	14.00 – 18.50
PLT	156.00	200.00 – 500.00
MPV	11.10	8.00 – 12.00

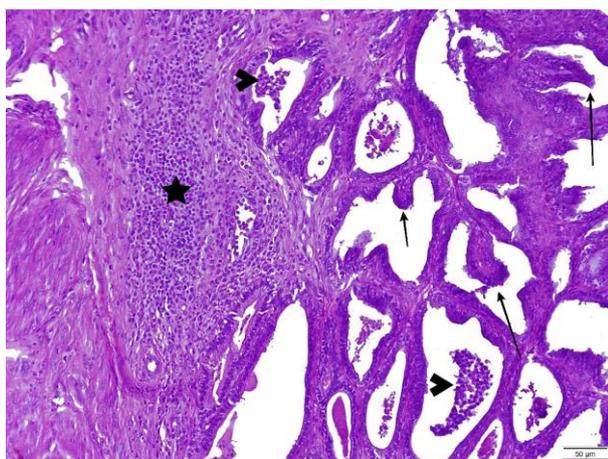
WBC: White blood cells, LYM: Lymphocytes, MONO: Monocytes, NEUT: Neutrophil, EOS: Eosinophils, LYM%: Lymphocytes percent, MONO%: Monocytes percent, NEUT%: Neutrophil percent, EOS%: Eosinophils percent, RBC: red blood cells, HGB: Haemoglobin, HCT: Haematocrit, MCV: Mean corpuscular volume, MCHC: Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration, RDWa: Red blood cell distribution, RDW%: Red blood cell distribution percent, PLT: Platelet, MPV: Mean platelet volume

According to antibiogram test results bacterial isolates were found to be susceptible to sulfamethoxazole, ampicillin, enrofloxacin; semi-susceptible gentamicin and resistant to neomycin sulfate. The medical treatment continued with fluid therapy. Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (Amoklavin; Suspension) 25 mg/kg BID was administered after surgery for five consecutive days until the cat's

health condition returned to normal. Post-operation controls were made on day 3 and 7 after the operation and at the end of 7th day, stitches were removed.



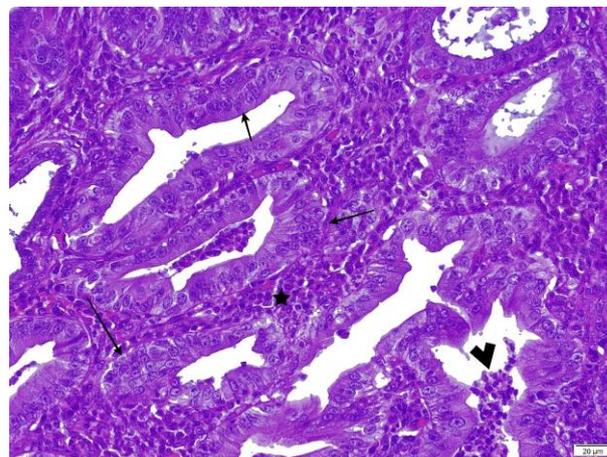
**Figure 1.** Uterine content after operation



**Figure 2.** Living and dead neutrophil leukocytes (Arrowhead), mononuclear cell infiltrations (Stars) and Papillar extensions (Arrows) in gland lumens. HE staining.

After the surgery uterus and ovaries were put in 10% formaldehyde for histopathologic examination. After detection of the uterus tissue in 10% formaldehyde brought to the Ankara University Department of Pathology, it was trimmed and placed in the cassettes and subsequently washed for 12 hours in running water. Then, tissues were taken to the routine tissue tracer (Leica TP1020) and blocked in paraffin (Thermo Electron Corp. Shandon Histocentre 3). Sections prepared from each block with a microtome (Leica RM2255) of 5  $\mu$ m thickness; after

deparaffinization and dehydration steps in an automatic dyeing machine (Leica Autostainer XL), by Harris's Hematoxylin-Eosin (HE) method; It was closed with lamella in the automatic capping machine (Leica CV5030). All findings were evaluated under a light microscope (Olympus BX51) and their diagnoses were made and the necessary areas were photographed (Olympus DP71).



**Figure 3.** Epithelial hyperplasia (Arrows) in the uterine glands, mononuclear cell infiltration (Star) between the glands, and dead and living neutrophil leukocytes (Arrowhead) in the gland lumen. HE staining.

In histopathological examination, intensive dead and living neutrophil leukocyte accumulations were observed in the uterine lumen (Figure 2). The neutrophil leukocytes in question were also detected in the gland lumens from place to place with a slight severity (Figures 2 and 3). The glands in the endometrium were enlarged, their number had increased. Mononuclear cell infiltrations, both in the endometrium between the glands and in the myometrium, as multifocal areas, attracted attention (Figures 2 and 3). In the histopathological examination of ovaries, follicles were detected at various stages. According to this report, the diagnosis is metritis subacute.

## DISCUSSION

Generally, pyometra occurs in queens between the age of 5-7 (average 7.6 years, range 1-20) but it can be observed any time after puberty (Ettinger & Feldman, 2010). Clinical signs usually occur within 4 weeks after the onset of oestrus in queens that are either mated, spontaneously ovulate or are induced to ovulate (mechanical stimulation or hormone induction) (Hagman, 2018). In this case the queen has never experienced oestrus or medically

stimulated with any other drugs or injection and the age of 5-month-old.

Pyometra is most common in dogs but more fatal in queens. Progesterone-mediated pathological proliferation and the formation of cystic endometrial hyperplasia are believed to predispose to pyometra, but two disorders can develop independently (Hagman, 2018). In this case no cystic endometrial hyperplasia was observed. One of the reasons for low mechanical stimulation (e.g. excessive petting or vaginal palpation), thus no recurrent estrogen and progesterone effects on the uterus. Another reason is that the uterus is exposed to progesterone in queens (40-50 days) than in bitches (over 60 days) (Agudelo, 2005; Smith, 2014). According to our knowledge pyometra occurs when the uterine environment during the luteal phase is suitable for pregnancy but also for microbial growth. Progesterone stimulates growth and proliferation of endometrial glands, increased secretion, cervical closure, and suppression of myometrial contractions. In this case the oestrus cycle hasn't occurred so that suppression of functions of uterus by progesterone cannot be the reason for bacterial infection. It may be caused by spontaneous ovulation which is a rare occasion in queens (Lawler et al., 1993). Despite many hypotheses, the reason behind the spontaneous ovulation might be because of the breed of the cat. Recent studies showed Oriental purebred cats having a higher incidence of pyometra than domestic and mixed-breed cats. It has also been observed by many authors that Oriental breed cats have a short interoestrus intervals compared to domestic cat breeds (Hollinshead and Krekeler, 2016).

In fact, progesterone measurement is useful, but this was not necessary because the patient did not show oestrus therefore we didn't include progesterone measurement for this study.

In many studies with microbiological examinations *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella* spp., *Streptococcus* spp. are commonly isolated. The main reason for this is that these are the opportunistic bacterial population on the urinary and intestinal tracts of cats (Hagman, 2018). In this case *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella* spp., were also isolated. *Klebsiella* spp. is a common bacterium in dogs and cats, one report documented the isolation of this pathogen from 2 dogs with diarrhea. Some strains of *K. pneumoniae* have been shown to produce an enterotoxin, similar to enterotoxic strains of *Escherichia coli*, which

stimulate secretion of fluid by mediating activation of the guanylcyclase-cyclic guanosine monophosphate mechanism (Olsen et al, 1985). According to this we have continued to administer Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid (Amoklavin; Suspension) 25 mg/kg BID for 5 days.

The postoperative complication includes peritonitis, dysfunction of the kidneys and liver, deterioration in health condition (Hagman, 2018). In our case we did not have any complications relating to peritonitis or any other health problems but we have continued with fluid therapy to prevent any kind of complications after the operation.

In conclusion pyometra has a complex pathology so it should not be disregarded when dealing with feline species or in animals of an age that is not typical for pyometra.

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8. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Available at: [www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html). Accessed Feb 18, 2003.

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