Some Immunomodulating Effects of Diclazuril in New Zealand Rabbits

Gamal El-Din A.M. Shams, Abdel-Alim F. Abdel-Alim, Nagah E.M. Edrees and Abeer E. Hossny*

Pharmacology Department, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagazig University, 44511, Egypt

Abstract

This study was conducted to investigate the immunomodulating effects of the diclazuril anticoccidial drug (1 mg/kg BW) given orally for 5 successive days to rabbits vaccinated with rabbit haemorrhagic viral disease (RHVD). Two blood samples were collected at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 14th and 21st days post drug and vaccine administration to study the effect of diclazuril on the innate immune response (phagocytic activity, serum lysozyme activity and nitric oxide production) and the humoral immune response (serum total proteins, determination of serum globulins and gamma globulins fractions using electrophoretic technique). The results revealed that diclazuril had adverse effect on both the innate and humoral immune response as evidenced by a significant decrease in phagocytic activity, lysozyme activity, nitric oxide production, serum total proteins, globulins and gamma globulins in rabbits. Therefore, diclazuril is not recommended as a chemotherapeutic agent for rabbits in the dose of 1 mg/kg BW.

Keywords: Diclazuril, Cellular, Humoral, Immune, Serum Proteins

Introduction

Rabbits are important farm animals raised for a variety of purposes including meat, fur and wool production from some breeds. For many years, prophylactic use of anticoccidial drugs has been the primary means of controlling coccidiosis. Anticoccidial drugs such as diclazuril had a significant prophylactic effect on Eimeria stiedai infection in rabbits [1]. Diclazuril, Toltrazuril and Nicarbazin were introduced firstly and then followed by ionophores. Nowadays, these drugs are considered as a stone base component for controlling coccidiosis [2]. In order to overcome the drug resistance of Eimeria species, several researches had been done to seek alternative means of control through increased knowledge for understanding the immunomodulation and natural product feed additives [3].

Diclazuril is a chemical anticoccidial drug which is a nucleotide analogue for prevention of coccidiosis intended for use in broilers, chickens, turkeys and rabbits. Diclazuril is a benzenecetonitrile that has potent activity against various stages of Eimeria tenella [4].

Few anticoccidials of this type have been developed [5]. Diclazuril is a very potent anticoccidial in rabbits and can be advocated for safe medication at 1 ppm for 7 days [6]. Many studies declared the potent activity and efficacy of diclazuril against various species of Eimeria [7,8]. Some immunologic studies have been performed to detect the effect of diclazuril on innate and humoral immune response. Several researches demonstrated that the therapeutic doses of diclazuril did not interfere with formation of protective immunity to E. tenella [9,10]. Diclazuril with a dose of 2 ppm did not affect the performance of rabbits and chickens but negative modulating effect on the humoral and cell-mediated immune response has been recorded [11,12]. Therefore, the aim of this study was to elucidate the potential adverse effects of diclazuril on rabbits at a dose of 1 mg/kg BW for 5 successive days.

*Corresponding author e-mail: (abehrosny26@yahoo.com), Pharmacology Department, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagazig University, 44511, Egypt.
Animals and experimental design

Eighteen New Zealand white rabbits of 3 months old and weighing about 2 kg were used in this study. They were purchased from a private rabbitry without history of rabbit haemorrhagic viral disease (RHVD) outbreaks or RHVD vaccination. The rabbits were tested serologically and proved to be sero-negative for RHVD. They were housed in disinfected well ventilated metal cage and provided with ad-libitum commercial pellet ration and clean water and kept under observation for one week before being used.

Rabbits were classified into 3 groups (each of 6 rabbits) as the following; the first group was non vaccinated non treated and was kept as a negative control; the second group was vaccinated (0.5 mL RHVD S.C) non treated and was kept as a positive control. The 3rd group was vaccinated with RHVD (0.5 mL S.C) and treated by diclazuril 1 mg/kg BW (Diclosol® liquid each 1 mL contain diclazuril 10 mg, Pharma Swede Company) given orally for 5 successive days according to the company recommendation for lambs. Two blood samples were collected from the ear vein of 5 rabbits/group at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 14th and 21st days post vaccination for studying both the innate and humoral immune responses. The first sample was 2-3 mL of blood collected in a sterile Wasserman tube containing heparin (50 IU/mL) to measure the phagocytic activity [13]. The second sample was 3-5 mL of blood collected in a sterile Wasserman tube without an anticoagulant. These samples were allowed to clot, and the serum was separated by centrifugation at 3000 r.p.m. for 10 min and stored at -20°C in sterile Eppendorf tubes till the time of use. Estimation of lysozyme concentration [14], nitric oxide production [15], total serum proteins [16], globulins and serum gamma globulins was carried out [17,18].

Statistical analysis

Data in the present study were statistically analyzed using SPSS version 21, IBM Corp., Chicago, IL, USA. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) [19] was used to determine the effect of diclazuril on the immune parameters.

Results and Discussion

Rabbits are exposed to many negative modulating factors, such as bad hygiene, concomitant infection with other diseases, management errors and immune suppressive drugs [20]. Immune suppression is the main cause of many diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders and some chemotherapeutic drugs. Blood parameters serve as indicators for the effect of drugs on innate and adaptive immune response and other serum proteins. Treatment of the vaccinated (RHVD) rabbits with diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW) decreased the phagocytic activity (phagocytosis % and phagocytic index) significantly at the 3rd day post vaccination. While, lysozyme concentration and nitric oxide production were decreased at 1st, 2nd and 3rd day post vaccination compared with vaccinated non treated group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Phagocytic percent %</th>
<th>Phagocytic index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>71.40± 0.60c</td>
<td>4.20± 0.05c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated only</td>
<td>85.80± 1.24a</td>
<td>6.86± 0.04a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated and treated</td>
<td>75.00± 0.70b</td>
<td>4.84± 0.09b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means within the same column carrying different letters are significant at P ≤ 0.05
Phagocytes act as storage for lysozyme, myeloperoxidase, acid hydrolysis, and complement activators [21]. The decrease in phagocytic percent and index (Table 1) express the adverse effect of diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW). These results were in agreement with Hassan et al. [11] who reported that administration of 2 ppm diclazuril given for 7 weeks with diet for New Zealand rabbits lead to leukopenia and neutrophilia. Lysozyme is part of the innate immune system which is a major secretory product of macrophages with antimicrobial and immunomodulating actions which reflect on the activities of macrophages [21]. The reduction of lysozyme concentration was significantly noticed as a side effect of diclazuril administration (Table 2).

Table 2: Effect of oral administration of diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW) for 5 successive days on lysozyme concentration (µg/mL) in vaccinated rabbits (Mean±S.E), n=5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Serum lysozyme conc. (µg/mL)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} day</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} day</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>120.0± 0.70\textsuperscript{c}</td>
<td>130.0± 0.31\textsuperscript{c}</td>
<td>137.0 ± 0.32\textsuperscript{b}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated only</td>
<td>190.60± 0.40\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>197.0 ± 0.32\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>191.80 ± 0.48\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated and treated</td>
<td>130.40± 0.50\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>140.6 ± 0.40\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>135.60 ± 0.40\textsuperscript{b}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means within the same column carrying different letters are significant at P ≤ 0.05

Table 3: Effect of oral administration of diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW) for 5 successive days on serum nitric oxide production (µg/mL) in vaccinated rabbits, (Mean±S.E) n= 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Serum nitric oxide production (µg/mL)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} day</td>
<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} day</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>18.82± 0.32\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>19.10± 0.35\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>18.88± 0.46\textsuperscript{b}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated only</td>
<td>27.70± 1.11\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>28.28± 1.53\textsuperscript{a}</td>
<td>27.60 ± 0.92\textsuperscript{a}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated and treated</td>
<td>21.36± 1.92\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>21.02± 1.33\textsuperscript{b}</td>
<td>22.30 ± 1.68\textsuperscript{b}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means within the same column carrying different letters are significant at P ≤ 0.05

Concerning nitric oxide (NO) which is considered a product of immune system cells such as macrophages is a potent biological effector regulating blood vessels dilatation, serving as a neural messenger and playing a complex role in inflammatory response. It is activated by cytokine microbial compounds which are derived from amino acid L-arginine by the enzymatic activity of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) and functions as a tumoricidal and antimicrobial molecule in vitro [22]. The current investigation revealed significant reduction of nitric oxide production which was supported by Mohammed [12] who stated that 2 ppm diclazuril administration resulted in a significant reduction in the percent of monocytes, basophils and heterophils which play an important role in phagocytosis. It was found in the present investigation that the production of nitric oxide was significantly decreased. Consequently, it could be concluded that these cells are responsible for nitric oxide release. The results demonstrated the positive correlation between nitric oxide production and lysozyme concentration.
Table 4: Effect of oral administration of diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW) for 5 successive days on total serum protein level (g/dl) in vaccinated rabbits, (Mean±S.E) n= 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>1st week</th>
<th>2nd week</th>
<th>3rd week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>5.08± 0.10^a</td>
<td>5.00± 0.07^a</td>
<td>5.40± 0.12^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated only</td>
<td>7.32± 0.06^a</td>
<td>7.10± 0.31^a</td>
<td>7.78 ± 0.07^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated and treated</td>
<td>5.24± 0.05^b</td>
<td>6.42± 0.14^a</td>
<td>7.28 ± 0.14^a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means within the same column carrying different letters are significant at P ≤ 0.05.

The current study illustrated a proteinogram analysis (Tables 4). A significant decrease in total serum protein (hypoprotienemia) at 1st week post vaccination was recorded in comparison with vaccinated non treated group (Table 5).

Table 5: Effect of oral administration of diclazuril (1 mg/kg BW) for 5 successive days on serum gamma-globulins (%) in vaccinated rabbits, (Mean±S.E) n= 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>1st week</th>
<th>2nd week</th>
<th>3rd week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>16.34± 0.10^c</td>
<td>16.40± 0.01^c</td>
<td>16.80± 0.01^c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated only</td>
<td>18.64± 0.01^a</td>
<td>18.51± 0.01^a</td>
<td>18.64 ± 0.01^a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinated and treated</td>
<td>15.47± 0.02^b</td>
<td>16.21± 0.02^b</td>
<td>17.30 ± 0.01^b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means within the same column carrying different letters are significant at P ≤ 0.05.

The decrease in total serum proteins after the first week of the experiment is going with the main stream of the adverse effect of the diclazuril on the immune system. The decrease in serum globulins level is attributed to the reduction in antibodies produced by B-cells, the reconstruction, activation and hyperplasia of lympho-reticular cells at the beginning of immunogenesis. The reduction of globulins synthesis is one of the factors which lead to immune deficiency which resulted from malfunction of lymphocytes. These results were in agreement with those previously reported by El-Kahkey [23] who measured the effect of two doses of semduramicin (25 and 50 ppm) on the cellular and humoral immune response on broiler chickens vaccinated against Newcastle viral disease. The author reported that 50 ppm had non-significant changes in albumins but a significant decrease in serum gamma globulins at the 1st and 3rd week post vaccination at both dose (25 and 50 ppm) of semduramicin.

Our results were also in accordance with Abdel-Hafez [24] who reported that 2 ppm of diclazuril decreased the total serum proteins and globulins level (gamma-globulins). The observed decrease in gamma-globulins at 1st and 2nd week post vaccination may be due to the negative effect of diclazuril on the lymphoid organs which is considered the main part in synthesis of gamma globulins as reported by Cooper et al. [25].

Conclusion

In conclusion, particular chemotherapeutics such as diclazuril lead to immune deficiency” secondary immune deficiency”, which refers to augment disease risk. Therefore, diclazuril is not recommended in the current dose for treating coccidia in rabbits.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.
References


الملخص العربي
 بعض التأثيرات المناعية للدايكلازوريل في الأرانب النيوزيلاندية
 جمال الدين محروس شمس، عبد العليم فؤاد عبد العليم، نجاح السيد إدريس، عبير السيد حسني
 قسم الفارماكولوجيا، كلية الطب البيطرية جامعة الزقازيق
 تم إجراء هذه الدراسة لبيان التأثير المناعي للدايكلازوريل (1 مجم/كم من وزن الجسم) عند إعطاء لمدة خمسة أيام متتالية كمضاد للكوكسيدييا في الأرانب المحصنة بلقاح النازف الدموي الفيروسى. تم إعطاء عدد من كل أربعة عينة (عينة باستخدام مضاد التخدير، والعينة الأخرى بدون مضاد التخدير) في اليوم الأول والثاني والثالث في الأسبوع الأول والثاني والثالث من إنتهاء العلاج والتحصين. لقد أظهرت النتائج أن استخدام الدياكلازوريل بهذه الجرعة أدى إلى حدوث نقص في الاستجابة المناعية الخلوية المتمثلة في نقص في القدرة على الالتهاب ونشاط إنزيم الليزوزيم وكذلك مستوى أكسيد النتيريك وفي الاستجابة المناعية السائدة المتمثلة في تأثير الدياكلازوريل على مستوى الأجسام المضادة حيث أدى استخدام الدياكلازوريل بهذه الجرعة إلى حدوث نقص في مستوى الأجسام المضادة وكذلك مستوى البروتينات الكلية في الأسبوع الأول والجلوبولينات من نوع جاما وأجزاء البروتينات المختلفة. لذلك لا يفضل استخدام الدياكلازوريل بهذه الجرعة لعلاج الأرانب.