Acute Phase Proteins, Lipid Profile and Proinflammatory Cytokines in Healthy and Bronchopneumonic Water Buffalo Calves

Sabry M. El-Bahr and Wael M. EL-Deeb

1,2Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Alexandria University, Egypt
3,4Department of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Resources, King Faisal University, Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the diagnostic value of Acute Phase Proteins (APP), lipid profiles and proinflammatory cytokines in healthy and bronchopneumonic water buffalo calves. Therefore, sixty water buffalo calves (9±1 month old, 175±15 kg) were divided into two equal groups, the first group represented healthy, control, calves whereas calves of the second group were affected with bronchopneumonia. Total leukocytic and differential counts were determined. Serum total protein, albumin, Triacylglycerol (TAG), low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-c), High Density Lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-c), Total cholesterol, Alanine Amino Transferase (ALT), Aspartate Amino Transferase (AST), Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP), Fibrinogen (Fb), Haptoglobin (Hp), Serum Amyloid A (SAA), Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF-α), Interleukins (IL1β, IL-12) and Interferon-gamma (IFN-γ) were also determined. In addition, Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL) was collected and analyzed. The present findings indicated that, total leukocytic and neutrophils counts were significantly (p<0.05) higher in pneumonic water buffalo calves compare with control. The examined biochemical parameters were significantly (p<0.05) increased in pneumonic calves except for total protein, albumin, cholesterol and HDL-c which were significantly (p<0.05) lower compare with control. Serum concentrations of investigated APP and proinflammatory cytokines were significantly (p<0.05) higher in pneumonic water buffalo calves than those of control. The present study demonstrated that, APP, lipid profile and proinflammatory cytokines perhaps served as biomarkers of bronchopneumonia in water buffalo calves. However, future studies with higher baseline sampling are still needed to establish and validate reference values for APP and cytokines in water buffalo calves.

Keywords: Haptoglobin, Fibrinogen, Serum Amyloid A, Interleukins, Biochemistry, Calves

1. INTRODUCTION

Respiratory diseases in bovine defined as an interaction between environmental, stressful and infectious agents (Galyean et al., 1999). Inflammation induced primarily by viral, bacterial, fungal and/or environmental factors (Wilkins, 2003; Wright et al., 2010). The primary reason of inflammation can determine the type of cellular response. Changing the concentrations of APP is an early, highly complex reaction of animal body against injurious stimuli (Gabay and Kushner, 1999; Gruys et al., 2005a) as a trial to homeostasis and restrains the microbial growth before developing acquired immunity (Gordon et al., 2008). APP are of positive (up-regulated; Hp, Fb and SAA) or negative...
Clinical investigation of pneumonic buffalo-calves showed anorexia, coughing, nasal discharge, fever and abnormal lung sound. All pneumonic calves were characterized by similar condition/level of infection and severity. The present findings (Table 1) showed significant (p<0.05) higher values of TLC and neutrophils in pneumonic calves compared with the control.

2.3. Statistical Analysis

All data was presented as mean ± standard error of mean by using student-t-test. All tests were performed using computer package of the statistical analysis system (SAS, 2002).

3. RESULTS

Clinical investigation of pneumonic buffalo-calves showed anorexia, coughing, nasal discharge, fever and abnormal lung sound. All pneumonic calves were characterized by similar condition/level of infection and severity. The present findings (Table 1) showed significant (p<0.05) higher values of TLC and neutrophils in pneumonic calves compared with the control.
Table 1. Hematological parameters in control (n = 30) and pneumonic (n = 30) water buffalo calves

| Variables          | Control calves | Pneumonic calves |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| TLC (10^9/mm^3)    | 8.4±0.18       | 15.4±0.32*       |
| Neutrophils (%)    | 29.6±0.52      | 52.8±2.78*       |
| Lymphocytes (%)    | 55.7±1.08      | 55.5±1.09        |
| Eosinophils (%)    | 1.9±0.06       | 1.9±0.07         |
| Basophils (%)      | 0.6±0.04       | 0.6±0.03         |
| Monocytes (%)      | 2.5±0.02       | 2.4±0.04         |

*pMeans are significantly different at the level (p<0.05)

Table 2. Hepatic and lipid profiles in control (n = 30) and pneumonic (n = 30) water buffalo calves

| Variables             | Control calves | Pneumonic calves |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| ALT (U/l)             | 88.2±0.46      | 239.3±9.95*      |
| AST (U/l)             | 105.8±0.64     | 292.0±4.88*      |
| ALP (U/l)             | 179.8±1.57     | 269.0±5.30*      |
| Total proteins (g/dL) | 6.4±0.02       | 5.1±0.02*        |
| Albumin (g/dL)        | 3.5±0.02       | 2.5±0.02*        |
| Cholesterol (mg/dL)   | 30.2±0.73      | 38.8±5.77*       |
| HDL-c (mg/dL)         | 50.0±1.60      | 37.5±3.20*       |
| LDL-c (mg/dL)         | 26.3±0.26      | 17.7±1.17*       |
| VLDL-c (mg/dL)        | 22.4±0.67      | 18.9±0.89*       |

*pMeans are significantly different at the level (p<0.05)

Table 3. Acute phase proteins and Proinflammatory Cytokines in control (n = 30) and pneumonic (n = 30) water buffalo calves

| Variables             | Control calves | Pneumonic calves |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Haptoglobin (g/L)     | 0.096±0.01     | 1.18±0.19*       |
| Serum amyloid A (mg/L)| 23.9±0.56      | 166.58±31.48*    |
| Fibrinogen (g/L)      | 4.2±0.16       | 16.17±1.18*      |
| TNF-α (ng/mL)         | 0.42±0.14      | 2.55±0.12*       |
| IL-1β (pg/mL)         | 102.4±3.25     | 640.4±20.45*     |
| IL-12 (mg/mL)         | 7.45±0.67      | 25.3±1.43*       |
| IFN-γ (pg/mL)         | 54.76±1.56     | 133.6±5.67*      |

*pMeans are significantly different at the level (p<0.05)

Furthermore, the values of TG, LDL-c, VLDL-c, AST, ALT and ALP were significantly (P<0.05) higher in pneumonic water buffalo calves when compared with control calves (Table 2). However, values of total protein, albumin, total cholesterol and HDL-c were significantly (P<0.05) lower in pneumonic calves than the control (Table 2). The current study (Table 3) reported significant (P<0.05) higher values of examined APP (Hp, SAA and Fb) and proinflammatory cytokines (TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-12 and INF-γ) in the pneumonic calves compared with control. Bacteriological BAL culture revealed a presence of predominant 4 classes of microorganisms shared in induction of pneumonia in water buffalo calves. These microorganisms were Pasteurella sp., (40%), Klebsiella sp. (20%), E. coli (13.3%) and finally mixed bacterial infection represented 26.7%.

4. DISCUSSION

The current study considered as one of the first in the field to address water buffalo bronchopneumonia by using APP, lipid profile and proinflammatory cytokines as Biomarkers. The significant (p<0.05) elevation of total leucocytes and neutrophils counts in pneumonic water buffalo calves (Table 1) may be attributed to a variety of immunomodulatory effects (El-Ghmati et al., 1996). Previous studies (Howard and Smith, 1999; Soethout et al., 2002; Civelek et al., 2007) reported such increase in leucocytes in pneumonic calves. Moreover, the pathological leucocytes range was reported in several infectious diseases (Kuchler et al., 1976; LaMonica et al., 1981; Civelek et al., 2007). The significant (p<0.05) elevation of ALT, AST and ALP activities and decreased liver albumin production in pneumonic water buffalo calves (Table 2) may be associated with possible hepatocellular dysfunction induced by inflammation (bronchopneumonia). Similar higher levels of ALT, AST and ALP were reported by Nikolic et al. (2006) in rats and Civelek et al. (2007) in neonatal calves. The effect of inflammation on hepatic albumin biosynthesis remains controversial (O’Leary et al., 2003). However, lower albumin level observed in the current study agrees with previous findings reported by Civelek et al. (2007). Similar marked reduction (p<0.05) of total cholesterol and HDL-c levels, accompanied by significant elevation (p<0.05) of VLDL-c and triglycerides of bronchopneumonic calves were observed in septic patients (Amersfoort et al., 2003; Fraunberger et al., 1999) and neonatal calves (Civelek et al., 2007). The reduction in serum cholesterol in pneumonic calves may be attributed either to inflammatory processes and subsequent changes in lipoprotein metabolism or liver dysfunction (Civelek et al., 2007). Lower level of HDL-c perhaps attributed to its protective effects against inflammation which mediated via bacterial endotoxines binding and subsequent neutralization (Wu et al., 2004). It was confirmed that inflammation leads to hypertriglyceridaemia in both humans and animals (Alvarez and Ramos, 1986; Petteplace et al., 2000). This may be due to an increased production of VLDL-c, diminished conversion of VLDL-c to LDL-c by the inhibition of lipoprotein lipase activity (Gouni et al., 1993) or stimulation of hepatic and adipose tissue lipolysis as well as hepatic fatty acid synthesis, which serve as substrates for hepatic VLDL synthesis (Feingold et al., 1992). Hp is α2-globulin synthesized in the liver (Feldman et al., 2000) and considered as the
major APP in ruminants. Hp could be detected in infected cattle before the onset of clinical signs and that its concentration used as an indicator of disease severity (Godson et al., 1996). The increased levels of Hp in cattle interpreted as the outcome of tissue damage resulting from infection or inflammation (Eckersall et al., 1988). Similar results in cattle (Conner et al., 1986; Eckersall et al., 1988; Skinner et al., 1991; Saini and Webert, 1991; Heegard et al., 2000; Ganheim et al., 2003) reported the same significant (p<0.05) higher levels of Hp of the current study (Table 3). In the contrary, other findings demonstrated either lower (Young et al., 1996) or unaltered (Wittum et al., 1996) Hp values of infected cows. The significant (p<0.05) elevation of SAA of pneumonic water buffalo calves (Table 3) perhaps attributed to the physiological role of SAA in host defense during inflammation (Urieli-Shoval et al., 2000; Murata et al., 2004; Orro et al., 2011). Recently, similar marked elevation (p<0.05) of SAA was reported in pneumonic calves (Nikunen et al., 2007; Orro et al., 2011). Fb is a reliable indicator of inflammation and/or bacterial infection in cattle and sheep (Pfeffer et al., 1993; Cheryk et al., 1998; Hirvonen and Pyorala, 1998; Nikunen et al., 2007; Gonzalez et al., 2008; Orro et al., 2011). The significant (p<0.05) elevation of Fb shown in the current study may be attributed to the involvement of Fb in homeostasis, providing a substrate for fibrin formation and in tissue repair, providing a matrix for the migration of inflammatory related cells (Thomas, 2000). Previous research demonstrated elevation of Fb in infected calves (Nikunen et al., 2007). Since blood samples were collected one time, the time course of APP, Lipids and cytokines were not estimated. However, it well known that, the acute phase proteins as SAA increased greater than 1000 fold in concentration within 48-72hours following inflammation in man and rabbits (Kushner, 1993). The mechanism for stimulation of APP production is by proinflammatory cytokines. The cytokine groups are the primary inducers of APP gene expression and each type initiates a different pattern of APP (Baumann and Gauldie, 1994). Thus, the increase in different patterns of APP seen in the current study reflected the production of different amounts or types of cytokines (Table 3). Similar results concerning such elevated level of TNF-α, IL1β and IFN-γ in inflammation and infection were observed in pigs (Reeth and Nauwynck, 2000) and in cattle (Pace et al., 1993; Horadagoda et al., 1994; Yoo et al., 1995; Knott et al., 1998; Morsey et al., 1999; Gruys et al., 2005b). In addition, expression of TNF and IL were significantly increased in the Airways and lung lesions of infected calves (Mialzrewich et al., 2001).

5. CONCLUSION

The study demonstrated that, APP, lipid profile and proinflammatory cytokines perhaps served as biomarkers for the diagnosis of bronchopneumonia in water buffalo calves. However, future studies with higher baseline sampling are still needed to establish and validate reference values for APP and cytokines in water buffalo calves.

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6.1. Competing Interests

The researchers declare that they have no competing interests.

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