Effect of Magnetic Water on Immune Response in Rabbit against Pathogenic Bacteria

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Abstract
This study investigates the effect of drinking magnetically treated water (MTW) on animal's immune response against bacterial infection to see whether MTW improve the health and the immune response of the body, as MTW producers claimed. 32 female rabbits were housed for 58 days and divided into two groups (treated group and control group) where treated group drank magnetized water with 3500 Guse while control group drank tap water. In the twenty three day, they injected with Salmonella typhi somatic antigen (O-Ag) according to immunization schedule for bacteria. Coulter counter was used for measurement of innate immunity (White blood cell, lymphocyte, monocyte and granulocyte) and Architect system was used for detection of adaptive immune system (immunoglobulin M-IgM titer). No significant difference among treated group and control group was observed in innate immunity before and after vaccination with Salmonella typhi (O-Ag). However, hemoglobin concentrations show significant decrease (p=0.027) in treated animals after vaccination with salmonella typhi O-Ag. Additionally no immunoglobulin G (IgG) was detected after 7 days from the immunization schedule, while IgM was detected and shows a significant elevation (p=0.030) in control group compared with treated group. For this reason magnetically treated water not only has no effect on hematological parameter but also has adverse effect on immune response to bacterial infection in rabbit.

Keywords: Magnetically treated water, Rabbit, cellular Immunity, Adaptive Immunity
INTRODUCTION

Lot of research have been done to increase the quality and health benefits of water. Scientists found as soon as a permanent magnet is kept in contact with water for a significant period of time; the water gets magnetically charged and acquires magnetic properties [1], which include energy building, activating, cleansing, and detoxifying. The literature review refers that irrigation of plants with magnetized water (MW) improved the vegetative growth, yield, and yield component, fruit size and weight characters. In this regard, Selim [2] pointed out that irrigation of cereal plants (wheat, barley, and triticale) with MTW significantly affect seed germination, micronutrient, yields, and yield component. Comparable results were also reported on chick pea [3] on tomato [4], on snow pea and chickpea [5], on chili [6], and on squash plants [7].

Al-Khazan et al. [8] reported that MTW has an enhancing effect on the plant metabolism in terms of photosynthesis and water uptake and also have a pronounced effect on plants productivity [9].

Some studies have been done on animals. Lin and Yotvat in 1990 [10] concluded that dairy cows that drink MW have shown an increase in milk production with the same amount of milk fat in compare with cows drank non-magnetized water. Also Chicken supplied with magnetic water grew larger, with an increase in the meat to fat ratio [11]. Similar results were also recorded by [12]. Rashid et al. [13] reported that MTW significantly improve the titer of antibody against new castle and gumbouro disease in fawbro broiler.

Very few studies have been done to study the effect of magnetically treated water (MTW) on the performance of immune system and immune response of the animals against infection. As is well known, competent immune system is fundamental for optimal live animal’s performance.

Immune response of the organism plays essential roles in the responses to different pathogens, injuries, or stressors. Innate immune system (monocytes macrophages, neutrophils, complement, cytokines, and acute phase proteins) provide immediate host defense and plays an essential role in the early responses but often not
efficiently enough to resist and eliminate complex disease conditions. While adaptive immunity is the hallmark of the immune system in higher animals and this response consists of antigen-specific reactions through T lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes and takes several days or weeks to develop [14].

The early response of macrophages and polymorphnuclear neutrophils are enough to control progression of bacterial infection and subclinical infections [15] while, T lymphocytes have the most important role in controlling the infection with intracellular pathogens through cytokine production. T lymphocytes also can mediate direct lysis of infected cells or activate B and T cells [16].

This experiment was designed to examine the effect of drinking magnetically treated water on the innate (granulocyte and monocyte) and adaptive immune response (lymphocyte, immunoglobulin M and immunoglobulin G) of rabbits against bacterial infection.

**Materials and Methods**

**Rabbit and Housing**

Thirty two (32) female rabbits weighing 1.852±0.380 Kg at the time of experiments, were housed at 25°C and divided into two groups, treated group-Drank magnetic water (n=16) and control group Drank tap water (n=16), with free access to food and water. The water in the first cages was exposed to magnetic field (3500 Gausse: 24 h/day) for 58 consecutive days.

All animals were housed for two weeks before starting the experiment to exclude pregnant and sick rabbits.

**Collection of Blood Sample**

The animals were weighed at the first day experiment using an electronic balance (WT 15000 1B, ROHS, China). In the first thirty six days, all animals were anaesthetized, with ethylic ether, and bleed 3 times with 12 days interval before starting immunization schedule [17] and last bleeding was done 7 days after immunization schedule (Table.1) Three milliliter of blood was taken by a heart puncture using 5 ml syringe and adds to potassium-EDTA tube to determine the hematological parameters in the 1st and 2nd bleeding while in the 3rd and last bleeding 5 milliliter of blood was taken, 2 ml of blood was added into potassium-EDTA tube for hematological parameters and 3 ml was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min to obtain the serum for detection of IgG and IgM. Bleeding was done always at the same time of the day.
Table (1). Timetable for bleeding and immunization schedule of Rabbits

| Bleeding and Immunization Schedule | Treated Group (Rabbits drinking MW) | Control Group (Rabbits drinking tap water) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Experiment Start                  | Day 0                              | Day 0                                   |
| 1<sup>st</sup> Bleeding           | Day 12                             | Day 12                                  |
| 2<sup>nd</sup> Bleeding           | Day 24                             | Day 24                                  |
| 3<sup>rd</sup> Bleeding           | Day 36                             | Day 36                                  |
| Immunization Schedule 1<sup>st</sup> Injection (0.1 ml I.V.) | Day 39                             | Day 39                                  |
| 2<sup>nd</sup> Injection (0.25 ml I.V.) | Day 42                             | Day 42                                  |
| 3<sup>rd</sup> Injection (0.25 ml I.V.) | Day 44                             | Day 44                                  |
| 4<sup>th</sup> Injection (0.5 ml I.V.) | Day 47                             | Day 47                                  |
| 5<sup>th</sup> Injection (0.75 ml I.V.) | Day 49                             | Day 49                                  |
| Last Injection (1.0 ml I.V.)      | Day 51                             | Day 51                                  |
| Last Bleeding                     | Day 58                             | Day 58                                  |

**Immunization Process**

Somatic “O” antigen of *Salmonella typhi* (14028 ATCC, USA) was prepared according to Myers procedure [18]. Immunization schedule was start 3 days after the third bleeding and last for 12 days. Before starting immunization schedule and one week after the last injection all the animals was bleeding and serum and blood were collected for detection of IgM and IgG.

**Blood Parameters**

Complete blood counts (CBC) included white blood cells (lymphocyte, monocyte, granulocyte) and hemoglobin concentrations were all measured by coulter counter (Bekman Coulter ATC “diss 2”), AOA medical electronics CO., LTD. Kobe, Japan.

**Detection of IgG and Ig M**

Specific antibody response to *Salmonella typhi* O antigen was detected using IgG/IgM kit (Polymed Therapeutics, Inc Houston, TX77056, USA). Then all the samples were analyzed using Architect System C8000 (Abbott-USA) for quantitation of IgM using immune turbidimetric procedure.

**Statistical Analysis**

Data were analyzed using SPSS software (Version 12). The results were expressed as means ± S.E and comparison of two means was made using Student’s paired t-test. A value of p ≤ 0.05 was considered to be significant.

**Results and Discussions**

The worldwide controversy regarding the effects of magnetic field on water results in part from the physical structure of liquid water. When water is supply with magnetic charge; hydrogen micro clusters are formed, which react with oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>)
to generate sodium hydroxide (NaOH). As a result the water’s pH is increased making it extra alkaline. Through drinking sufficient magnetic resonance water, it can rise the alkalinity of blood with a low pH of 7.2 to 7.6 [19]. Some researchers reported that magnetic treatment affects light absorbance and surface tension of water [20, 21]. While others reported that salt removal percentage (SRP) increased with increasing the current at low flow rates up to 0.75 ml/s [22]. With increasing exposed time the magnetized effects is increased, but were weakened with the removal of magnetic field. In the X-ray experiment, the strength of diffraction increased also, after the water was exposed in magnetic field. These phenomena are simply explained by the molecular structure of water and the theory of magnetization of water [23].

As illustrated in table 2, drinking magnetic water for 32 days, using paired T-test, had no significant effect on total Wight blood cells, lymphocyte, monocyte and granulocyte, and hemoglobin concentration in both groups and these findings was in agreement with Battocletti et al. [24] who reported that Differential and absolute white blood cell counts of segmented neutrophils and lymphocytes in rhesus monkeys were considerably changed during the test, but this change also include monkeys which were not exposed to the magnetic field. Furthermore, Gilani and his colleague [25] reported that magnetized water has no effect on some serum component such as cholesterol, triglycerides, calcium, phosphorus, and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). However magnetized water was significantly decreased aspartate aminotransferase (AST) in serum of broilers that drank magnetized water.

Furthermore, no important difference in monocyte, granulocyte, total white blood cell and lymphocyte was observed before and after vaccination with Salmonella typhi O-Ag except for hemoglobin concentration, which show significant decrease in treated animals after vaccination (Table.3).

| Blood Parameters | Treated Group | Control Group |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|
|                  | Time 1 (Day 1) | Time 2 (Day 32) | P-Value | Time 1 (Day 1) | Time 2 (Day 32) | P-Value |
| W.B.C. 10^9/l    | 8.100 ±1.488 | 7.575 ±1.356 | 0.863 | 5.900 ±1.034 | 5.275 ±0.712 | 0.567 |
| Lymphocyte 10^9/l| 4.000 ±0.633 | 4.425 ±0.892 | 0.771 | 2.700 ±0.308 | 2.925 ±0.487 | 0.614 |
| Granulocyte 10^9/l| 2.625 ±0.855 | 1.875 ±0.286 | 0.350 | 2.300 ±0.795 | 1.525 ±0.085 | 0.315 |
| Monocyte 10^9/l  | 1.475 ±0.467 | 1.275 ±0.209 | 0.766 | 2.475 ±1.377 | 0.925 ±0.165 | 0.376 |
| Hemoglobin (Hb)  | 12.250 ±0.275 | 13.725 ±0.225 | 0.058 | 13.625 ±1.191 | 12.825 ±0.912 | 0.499 |
Our finding is totally in agreement with Osbakken et al. [26], who reported that magnetic field has no effect on white blood cell counts, cholesterol, triglyceride, plasma creatine phosphokinase, lactic dehydrogenase, or protein concentrations in Magnet groups compared to the two control groups. However, the decrease in hemoglobin concentration seems to be related to laboratory environment surrounding the magnet, when compared to the animal facility environment, quite than to magnetic field effects.

IgM is ten times more efficient than IgG in removing Salmonella from blood after intravenous (IV) injection and their uptake in the reticuloendothelial system (RES). However, IgM was over 1000 times more efficient than IgG in promoting killing of the bacteria after intraperitoneal (IP) challenge. The greater effect of IgM is suggested to be a special feature of Salmonella infections, connected with the capacity of these bacteria for intracellular survival and multiplication in the RES [27].

Surprisingly, Specific antibody response (IgM) to Salmonella typhi (O-Ag) show significant elevation (0.030) in control female rabbit groups compared with treated group (Table 4). This indicated that magnetically treated water have adverse effect on immune system and this result was comparable to Al-Mufarrej, et al. [1] who show that magnetic treated water have adverse effect on female broiler chickens immune response and these result is also comparable to Tenford et al. [28] who show that humoral and cell-mediated immune responses, including the level of serum IgM and spleen lymphocytes, to sheep erythrocytes vaccination were not significantly different for the exposed mice in comparison with control animals.
Table (4). Effect of magnetic water on Immunoglobulin M (IgM) titer after Immunization with Salmonella typhi

| Groups          | IgM titer (g/l) (Before Immunization) | IgM titer (g/l) (After Immunization) | P-Value |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Control Group   | 0.345 ±0.009                         | 0.580 ±0.066                         | 0.030   |
| Treated Group   | 0.310 ±0.021                         | 0.390 ±0.046                         | 0.078   |

Eventually some magnetic water treatment effect actually exists, but the most important questions is whether the magnetic water improve the health and the immune response of the body as magnetically treated water producers claimed? It seems quite unlikely that any of the claimed benefits of MTW are real until such data become available. Furthermore, there are other significant factors which can affect the outcome of MTW and should be examined before any final conclusion concerning such action. These contain factors influence the strength of the magnetic field for example the number of magnets, space between magnets, shape of the magnet, the space between the water and the magnetic field, quantity of water and finally the period of contact with the magnetic field [1].

Conclusions
MTW did not only not influence the innate immune response, adaptive immune response, but also inhibit primary immune response (IgM) against bacterial infection. A little scientific work was done in the field of effect of MTW in vivo to prove the positive effect of MTW to support the claims made by the supplier of magnetic devices. Finally, it’s very important to develop the knowledge of magnetic water treatment the point where the effects of magnetic treatment can be reliably predicted and shown to be economically attractive.

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