

Control of haemonchosis in Malaysian goats with closantel

ABSTRACT

The therapeutic and prophylactic effects of closantel on natural infections with *Haemonchus contortus* were studied in goats in Peninsular Malaysia. Closantel was highly effective against *H. contortus*, either at a subcutaneous (s.c.) injection of 5.0 mg kg⁻¹ ~ body weight (100%), or in an oral drench mixture with mebendazole at a dose of 10.0 mg kg⁻¹ (99.2%), as indicated by faecal egg counts. *H. contortus* larvae were absent from faecal cultures for 5, 6 and 7 weeks following treatment with s.c. injections of closantel at doses of 2.5 mg kg⁻¹, 5.0 mg kg⁻¹ and 10.0 mg kg⁻¹ respectively, and for 6 weeks after treatment with closantel at 10.0 mg kg⁻¹, given orally. Through its sustained activity, closantel not only prevented reinfection with *H. contortus* but also caused a dramatic reduction in pasture contamination. The potential utility of closantel in the strategic control of haemonchosis in goats, and as an alternative treatment for benzimidazoles and levamisole resistant *H. contortus* strains, is discussed.

Keyword: *Haemonchus contortus*, Goat, Control methods-Nematoda, Closantel, Sustained activity