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Study of clinical, laboratory abnormalities and outcome in patients with scrub typhus at a south Indian tertiary care hospital



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Background: Scrub typhus is caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi* (*O.tsutsugamushi*) an obligatory intra-cellular gram negative bacterium, a major cause of febrile illness in Asia pacific region.

Methods & Materials: This is prospective observational study on patients with fever with Weil felix ox-k positive in 1:320 dilutions or more or IgM ELISA and admitted between August 2014 to August 2015 in general medicine wards and emergency unit, Nizam's institute of medical sciences, Hyderabad. Febrile illness due to other established causes (dengue fever, enteric fever, malaria, infective endocarditis, bacterial meningitis and culture positive fevers) even when co-infection present were excluded from the study.

Results: A total 71 patients included in this study, mean age was 43.77 years. Majority of patients belong to agricultural background(35.2%). The mean duration of fever before presentation to our institution was 12 days. Most common symptom was cough 33.8%. Breathlessness was seen in 31%, vomitings in 29.65%, headache in 28.2%, altered sensorium in 8.5%, seizures in 1.4% and jaundice in 8.5% patients.

Clinically signs of pneumonitis were seen in 7%, ARDS noted in 68.5%, pleural effusion in 3 (4.2%), hepatosplenomegaly in 15.49% patients. Pallor was noted in 16.9%, pedal oedema in 8.5%, icterus in 8.5%, lymphadenopathy in 9.9%, rash in 8.5% and eschar in 7% patients 57.75%. Pallor was noted in 16.9%, pedal oedema in 8.5%, icterus in 8.5%, lymphadenopathy in 7(9.9%) patients, rash in 6(8.5%) patients, eschar in 7% patients. Bradycardia was observed in 1 patient, tachycardia in 50.7% patients. Hypotension was found in 5.6% patients. Elevation of transaminases was seen in 83.1%, serum alkaline phosphatase in 63.38%, bilirubin elevation seen in 50.7% patients. Severe hypoalbuminemia was seen in 47.88% patients. Acute kidney injury was seen in 14.1%. Complete cure was seen in 97.18%.



Conclusion: Majority of our patients with scrub typhus are farmers. Pulmonary symptoms are the most common manifestation. Hepatitis is the most common laboratory abnormality in our study. Mortality is low with prompt treatment.

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Camel's milk as a source of human toxoplasmosis in Butana area - Sudan



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Background: *Toxoplasma gondii* is widely distributed in most parts of the world, affecting animals and humans. Toxoplasmosis is considered the third cause of death associated with food-borne infections in Europe (EFSA, 2007) and USA (Mead et al., 1999). Milk was implicated as a source of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in several reports (Jackson and Hutchison). Bonametti *et al.*, described toxoplasmosis in breast fed child whose mother had acquire toxoplasmosis by ingestion of raw goat milk . Manal *et al.*(2005) reported a prevalence of 61.7% in Sudanese camels. The aim of this study is to improve the role of naturally infected camel's milk as a source of human toxoplasmosis in Butana area - Sudan.

Methods & Materials: Ten milk samples were collected from infected camels at Butana area (Eastern Sudan). The infection was confirmed by IgM anti-*T. gondii* ELISA test, using a commercial kit (DRG Instruments GmbH ,Germany). For each milk sample, two naive kittens (3-week-old) were fed with 10 ml for each and four Albino mice were inoculated by gavage , 2 ml per sample for each mice. For each batch of samples inoculated, one kitten and three mice were kept as control and not inoculated. ELISA test was carried out on the survived infected kittens and mice sera . Fecal samples from kittens were examined daily for oocysts detection. An autopsy was carried out on mice and tissues were fixed in 10% formalin for histopathology to detect *Toxoplasma* tachyzoites or cysts.

Results: All infected kittens began to shed *Toxoplasma* oocysts 3-5 days post infection. Infection was documented in all infected kittens and 21 of the 23 surviving mice by positive serology (ELISA) results. 17 mice were died at 3-14 day post infection. *Toxoplasma* tachyzoites were observed in the survived mice specimens. Non of the control kittens or mice showed evidence of infection by ELISA test.

Conclusion: The excretion of *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites in camel's milk documented in this study and the high sero-reactivity of *Toxoplasma* in camel's herders in Butana area (100%) reported previously by Khalil (2004), warrant a closer look into its public