EFFICACY OF IVERMECTIN AGAINST GASTROINTESTINAL NEMATODIASIS AND ECTOPARASITES IN CROSSBRED CATTLE IN BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

The experiment was carried out to determine the efficacy of Ivermectin (Ivomec® S/C Formulation) against gastrointestinal nematodiasis and ectoparasites including stephanofilaria on crossbred cattle, to determine the effect of drug on certain hematological parameters like hemoglobin (Hb) content, packed cell volume (PCV) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)in crossbred cattle and to determine the effect of the drug on live weight. A total of 100 cattle were selected randomly and examined for presence of both endo and ectoparasites including stephanofilaria. Gastrointestinal nematodiasis were detected by examination of fecal samples and ectoparasites as well as stephanofilaria were detected by physical examination. Out of 100 cattle, 20 were found to suffer from both endo and ectoparasites. These 20 cattle were selected finally for the research work. Then these cattle were divided into two groups, group A (treated group, n=15) and group B (control group, n=5). Ivermectin was injected subcutaneously to the cattle of group A @ 200µm/kg body weight (1ml/50 kg body weight). The therapeutic efficacy of the drug against gastrointestinal nematodiasis was determined by investigation of fecal egg count reduction and the efficacy was 100% against the common nematodes in crossbred cattle on day 7, 14, 21 and 28 of post treatment period. Ticks within a markable area (25 square inches) were counted on day 0 and lice infestation was marked as infected on day 0. Ivermectin showed 100% effectiveness at the 7, 14, 21 and 28 day of post treatment period against both tick and lice infestation. The efficacy of the drug against stephanofilariasis (humpsore) was determined by reduction of diameter of the sore on the day 14, 42 and 56 of post treatment period. All the sores were completely healed up by the 56 days. During the study of hematological parameters it was seen that Hb and PCV were increased whereas ESR values were decreased on post treatment days. In this study the mean live weight of the cattle of treated group was increased after treatment with ivermectin and increased body weight was 5.13% on the 28th day of post treatment period. From the above findings it may be concluded that ivermectin was 100% effective against gastrointestinal nematodes common in crossbred cattle. Effectiveness of the drug against external parasites was 100%. In this study hematological parameters were changed significantly after treatment with ivermectin, body weight of animal treated with ivermectin was increased and no adverse effect of the drug was found in this study.

Key words: Ivermectin, Gastrointestinal nematodes, ectoparasites, cattle

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh, being an agricultural country, is largely dependent on agriculture for its economy. The backbone of agriculture of this country is the livestock but the general condition of this livestock is miserable mainly due to parasitic infestation. Gastrointestinal nematodiasis is a common problem of cattle which causes economic losses in the form of mortality, stunted growth, weight loss, decreased milk and meat production, draft power, market value of living animal, infertility and condemnation of carcasses during meat inspection. In addition to gastrointestinal nematodes, the ectoparasites like tick, mite, lice also cause loss of productivity in cattle. They cause loss of productivity by damaging skin and hides and sucking blood from animal body resulting in poor growth rate of animal. Stephanofilariasis, commonly known as humpsore is very common in Bangladesh and India which causes severe economic losses by decreasing productivity and cost of animals and their skin quality also.

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In Bangladesh many drugs are being used for a longtime to combat parasitic infestation in livestock. The indiscriminate use of anthelmintics available in the market has made parasites to be resistant against the drugs. Moreover there was not a single anthelmintic effective against both endo and ectoparasites. Among all the anthelmintics in use up to date a very limited number are broad spectrum and effective against a large number of endoparasites. Although there are few ectoparasiticides, they are too toxic for both animal and human being. In this circumstance it was very much urgent to find out an anthelmintic which would be effective against both endo and ectoparasites. This search leads to find out the efficacy of ivermectin against both the types of parasites. There was no available report on efficacy of ivermectin in the crossbred cattle which are more susceptible to parasitic infestations than our indigenous cattle. Considering all these constraints this work aimed to determine the efficacy of ivermectin (subcutaneous injection formulation) against gastrointestinal nematodes and ectoparasites in crossbred cattle along with the effect of Ivermectin on certain blood parameters and body weight of crossbred cattle.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out in two villages namely Kewatkhali and Balashpur and BAU Dairy Farm nearby Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. The following procedure was adopted to perform the experiment-

Primarily a total of 100 crossbred cattle were selected randomly and the cattle were examined carefully to detect the presence of both endo and ectoparasites by fecal and physical examination respectively. By fecal examination gastrointestinal nematodiasis were recorded in seventy five cattle. By physical examination it was found that 40 animals had tick infestation, 30 animals had lice infestation and 20 animals had humpsore. Out of the primarily selected 100 crossbred cattle, 20 animals harboring both endo and ectoparasites were finally selected for the present study. These twenty cattle were randomly divided into two groups- group A (treated group) consisting of 15 cattle and group B (control group) consisting of the rest 5 cattle. These selected animals were marked by plating at the neck by wire.

For the detection of gastrointestinal nematodiasis fecal sample was collected directly from the rectum of the cattle under experiment belonging to both group A and group B. It was performed both at pre and post treatment period. After treatment it was done on 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day. The collected samples have been examined by Direct Smear Method and McMaster Egg Counting Technique as described by Soulsby (1986). The presence of ectoparasites on body coat of cattle was detected by thorough physical examination and the infestation was marked as slight, moderate and severe. Tick and lice infestations and stephanophilariasis were considered in this study.

Selection and administration of drug

Injectable ivermectin preparation (Ivomec S/C Formulation) was purchased from the local market. Then the drug was injected subcutaneously to all the cattle of group A at the dose rate of 1 ml/50 kg body weight (0.2 mg/kg body weight. The egg reduction test was performed on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day of post treatment period. The ticks within a selected area (25 square inches) of body coat were counted physically prior to treatment with ivermectin (day 0) and after treatment on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day. The total count of ticks was recorded. The cattle infestated with lice were marked as infestated on day 0. After treatment with ivermectin observations on the basis of physical examination were recorded on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day. The diameter of hump sore was recorded before treatment and on the day 14, 28, 42 and 56 after treatment with the drug. To study the effect of ivermectin on hematological parameters, blood samples were collected from the external jugular vein of the cattle of treated and control group in vials containing anticoagulant (Sodium EDTA) at the day 0, 7, 14, 21 and 28 to determine the effect of Ivermectin to the following hematological parameters-hemoglobin (Hb) content, packed cell volume (PCV) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR). The hematological parameters were determined as per standard method cited by Coffin (1955)

Statistical Analysis

The data were analyzed statistically between pretreatment and post treatment values by using well known student 'T' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The cattle belonging to the group A were treated with Ivermectin at the dose rate of 1ml per 50kg body weight (200μ g/per kg body weight) and there gastrointestinal nematodiasis showed 100% egg reduction on the 7th day of the post treatment period. The same result was found on the 14th, 21st and 28th day of post treatment period. In control group (Group B) the EPG was increased gradually on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th day (Table 1).

Table 1. Efficacy of Ivermectin (a	S/C formulation)	against gastrointestinal	nematodiasis ba	sed on the number of
egg in feces				

Group	Tag	Sex	Pretre	eatment				Post T	reatment			
	No]	Day 0	I	Day7	Day	14	Da	y21	Day	/28
			EPG	EPG	EPG	EGG	EPG	EGG	EPG	EGG	EPG	EGG
				(mean \pm	(mean	Reduction	(mean \pm SE)	Reduction	(mean \pm	eduction	(mean \pm SE)	Reduction
				SE)	± SE)				SE)			
А	105	F	950									
	110	Μ	700									
	115	Μ	800									
	120	F	750									
	125	Μ	900									
	130	F	600									
	135	F	750									
	140	Μ	700	810 ± 6.87	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
	145	Μ	800									
	150	F	900									
	155	Μ	950									
	160	F	800									
	165	Μ	900									
	170	Μ	850									
	175	F	800									
В	180	F	700									
	185	Μ	650									
	190	Μ	800	800 ± 5.5	930	0%	1050	0%	1150	0%	1200	0%
	195	F	950									
	200	F	900									

Ivermectin showed 100% efficacy against lice infestation of Group A cattle which were treated with the drug at the dose rate of 1ml/50kg body weight ($200\mu g/kg$ body weight).No lice was found by physical examination on the 7th day of treatment. The similar result was found on the 14th 21st & 28th day of post treatment period. Whereas the rate of lice infestation was constant in the cattle of group B (Control Group) this finding was shown in Table 2.

The number of ticks of cattle of group A were determine by physical examination within a selected area (25 square inches). Again ticks in the selected area were counted on the 7^{th} , 14^{th} , 21^{st} and 26^{th} day after treatment with ivermectin. No ticks were found with the selected area of the body of cattle. On the other hand in control group the numbers of ticks were increased gradually on the 7^{th} , 14^{th} , 21^{st} & 28^{th} day (Table 3).

The cattle of Group A with humpsore showed significant reduction of lesion 14 days after a single dose of Ivermectin(S/C Formulation). After 42^{nd} day of post treatment period smaller lesions were completely healed up but the larger lesions were not completely healed. By the 56th day of post treatment period the larger lesions were also healed up completely leaving the scar tissue. So it can be stated that S/C injection of Ivermectin (Ivomec®) is very much effective drug against stephanofilariasis for crossbred cattle in Bangladesh.

Effect of Ivermectin (S/C Formulation) on certain Hematological Parameters (Hb, PCV and ESR)

Although no significant change in gm% of Hb was observed at the 7th day of post treatment period, it was increased significantly from the 14^{th} day onwards and continued upto 28^{th} day of treatment. No such change was observed in cattle of control group (Table 4).

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Table 2. Efficacy of Ivermectin (S/C Formulation) against	lice infestation in crossbred cattle
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Group	No of	Drug with dose	Pretreatment	7 th	' Day	14 th	^h Day	21 st	^t Day	28 ^{tt}	' Day
	cattle		day	Findings	%	Findings	%	Findings	%	Findings	%
					Reduction		Reduction		Reduction		Reduction
A	15	Ivermectin @ 200µg/kg	Infected	Nil	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	100%	Nil	100%
B	5	Nil	Infected	Infected	0	Infected	0	Infected	0	Infected	0

Table 3. Efficacy of Ivermectin (S/C formulation) against ticks infestation in crossbred cattle

Group	Tag	Sex	Drug with	Pretreatmen	nt			Р	ost treatment				
	No		dose			7 th I	Day	14 th I	Day	21 st	Day	28 th 1	Day
				Number of ticks within 25 sq,inches	Mean ± SE	Number of ticks (mean)	% Reduction						
А	105	F	Ivermectin	7									
	110	Μ	@	9									
	115	Μ	200µgm/	8									
	120	F	kg	10									
	125	М	body	8									
	130	F	weight	7									
	135	F		9									
	140	Μ		10	7.0 ± 0.45	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
	145	Μ		7									
	150	F		9									
	155	Μ		8									
	160	F		10									
	165	Μ		6									
	170	М		7									
	175	F		4									
В	180	F		5									
	185	М	Nil	9									
	190	M F		8	7.8 ± 1.98	8.8	0	10	0	11.5	0	12.5	0
	195	F		10									
	200			7									

Table 4.Efficacy of Ivermectin (S/C Formulation) on Hemoglobin (Hb gm%) in crossbred cattle.

Group	Tag	Drug	with	Pretreatm	nent 0 Day				Post Treat	ment			
	No	dose				7 th	Day	14 th 1	Day	21 ^s	^a Day	28 th	Day
				Hb in	Mean ±SE	Hb in	Mean ±SE	Hb in	Mean ±SE	Hb in	Mean ±SE	Hb in	Mean
				individual		individual		individual		individual		individual	±SE
				animal		animal		animal		animal		animal	
А	105	Iverme	ectin	6.5		7.0		7.5		7.8		8.0	
	110	@		8.0		8.4		8.5		9.0		9.5	
	115	200µg	/kg	7.5		8.0		8.5		8.8		9.0	
	120	body		8.5		8.5 6.8		9.0		9.5		10.0	
	125	weight	t	6.0		9.5		7.0		7.8		8.5	
	130			9.0		8.0		9.8		10.0		10.0	
	135			7.5		9.0		8.5		9.0		9.8	
	140			8.5		7.0		9.4		9.5		10.0	
	145			6.5	7.53±0.26	7.0	7.98 ± 0.25	7.5	8.40 ± 0.22	8.0	8.94±0.214	8.8	9.48 ± 0.21
	150			6.5		8.0		7.8		8.4		9.0	
	155			7.5		9.5		8.5		8.8		9.5	
	160			9.0		8.5		9.5		10.0		10.5	
	165			8.0		8.7		9.0		10.0		10.4	
	170			7.5		6.8		8.0		9.5		10.0	
	175			6.5				7.5		8.0		8.8	
В	180			7.5		7.5		7.0		6.8		6.5	
	185			8.0	7.36±0.30	8.0		7.8		7.0		6.5	
	190	Nil		7.8		7.5	7.30±0.29	7.5	7.10 ± 0.28	7.4	6.74 ± 0.26	7.0	
	195			6.5		6.5		6.4		6.0		5.8	6.36±0.24
	200			7.0		7.0		6.8		6.5		6.0	

PCV values of treatment group increased significantly at the 28th day of treatment but it was decreased in control group. These findings of PCV values were shown in Table 5.

Group	Tag	Drug	Р	retro	eatment				Post Tre	eatment			
	No	with		D	ay 0								
		dose	PCV	in	Mean ±SE	7 th	day	14 ^t	^h day	21	st day	28 ^t	^h day
			individ	lua		PCV in	Mean ±SE	PCV in	Mean ±SE	PCV in	Mean ±SE	PCV in	Mean ±SE
			l cattle			individual		individual		individual		individual	
						cattle		cattle		cattle		cattle	
А	105	Ivermect	32.00			32.50		33.50		34.00		35.00	
	110	in @	30.50			31.00		31.50		32.50		33.00	
	115	200µg/	34.00			35.00		36.00		36.00		36.50	
	120	kg body	32.50			33.00		33.50		34.00		35,00	
	125	weight	30.00			31.00		32.00		33.50		34.00	
	130		31.50			32.50		33.00		34.00		35.50	
	135		35.50			35.00		36.00		36.50		36.50	
	140		30.50		32.23±0.45	31.00	32.83±0.42	31.50	33.62±0.44	32.00	34.36±0.39	33.00	35.06±0.35
	145		32.00			32.50		33.00		34.00		35.00	
	150		35.50			36.00		36.50		36.50		36.50	
	155		33.00			33.50		34.00		35.00		35.50	
	160		30.50			31.00		31.80		32.50		33.00	
	165		32.50			33.00		33.50		34.00		35.00	
	170		33.00			33.50		35.00		36.00		36.50	
	175		31.00			32.00		33.50		35.00		36.00	
В	180		32.50			32.00		31.00		30.50		30.00	
	185		30.00			31.00	32.30±0.70	30.50	31.20 ± 0.52	30.00		29.00	29.80 ± 0.28
	190	Nil	34.00		32.60±0.99	33.50		32.00		3100	30.50 ± 0.25	30.50	
	195		35.00			34.00		32.50		31.00		30.00	
	200		31.50			31.00		33.00		30.00		29.50	

Table 5. Efficacy of Ivermectin (S/C Formulation) on Packed Cell Volume (PCV%) in crossbred cattle

The Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR) was decreased significantly at the 14th, 21st and 28th day of post treatment period in case of the cattle of treatment group but not in case of control group (Table 6).

Table 6. Effect of Ivermectin on Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR min/hr) in crossbred cattle

Group	Tag	Drug with	Pretreatn	nent (Day 0)				Post Tre	eatment			
	No	dose	ESR in	Mean±SE	7 th	Day	14 ^{tl}	' Day	21 ^s	^t Day	28 th	' Day
			ind.		ESR in	Mean±SE	ESR in	Mean±SE	ESR in	Mean±SE	ESR in	Mean±SE
			cattle		ind. cattle		ind. cattle		ind. cattle		ind. cattle	
А	105		1.50		1.40		1.30		1.20		1.10	
	110		0.90		0.80		0.70		0.60		0.60	
	115	Ivermectin @	1.00		0.90		0.80		0.70		0.60	
	120	200µg/kg	0.80		0.70		0.60		0.60		0.55	
	125	bodyweight	0.80		0.75		0.70		0.60		0.50	
	130		1.20		1.00		0.90		0.80		0.70	
	135		1.10	1.13±0.067	1.00	1.03 ± 0.066	0.85	0.93±0.066	0.80	0.85 ± 0.059	0.65	0.77 ± 0.057
	140		1.30		1.20		1.10		1.00		0.90	
	145		1.40		1.30		1.20		1.10		1.00	
	150		0.90		0.90		0.80		0.90		0.80	
	155		0.80		0.70		0.60		0.60		0.50	
	160		1.10		1.00		0.90		0.80		0.70	
	165		1.40		1.30		1.20		1.10		1.00	
	170		1.30		1.20		1.10		1.00		0.90	
	175		1.50		1.40		1.30		1.20		1.10	
В	180		0.90		1.00		1.10		1.20		1.30	
	185		1.30	0.96 ± 0.104	1.40	1.08 ± 0.216	1.50	1.19 ± 0.097	1.60		1.65	
	190	Nil	0.80		0.90		1.00		1.10	1.28 ± 0.096	1.25	1.38 ± 0.080
	195		1.00		1.20		1.20		1.30		1.40	
	200		0.80		0.90		1.10		1.20		1.30	

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The effect of Ivermectin (S/C Formulation) on body weight of crossbred cattle

Both individual and mean live weight of the cattle of treated group were recorded prior to treatment and on the 28th day of treatment. There was a significant improvement in live weight gain after treatment and it was calculated in kilogram and shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Efficacy	v of Ivermectin	(S/C Formulation)) on bodyweight of c	rossbred cattle

Group	Tag no	Pretreatmen	nt (Day 0)	Post treatme	nt (28 th day)	Weight gain/	Improvement (%)	
		body wt (kg)	Mean ±SE	body wt (kg)	Mean ±SE	loss		
А	105	110		118				
	110	195		208				
	115	120		130				
	120	100		106				
	125	115		120				
	130	150		158				
	135	120		126				
	140	150	144 ± 7.91	155	151.4 ± 8.16		5.13%	
	145	180		185		7.4		
	150	140		148				
	155	155		158				
	160	135		145				
	165	130		135				
	170	190		198				
	175	170		179				
В	180	165		161				
	185	120	$134{\pm}11.37$	118	130.4±11.93			
	190	150		145		-3.6	Nil	
	195	110		108				
	200	125		120				

In this study subcutaneous injection of Ivermectin was found 100% effective against gastrointestinal nematodes in crossbred cattle. This effectiveness was determined by fecal egg per gram (EPG) reduction. This result was in conformity with earlier workers (Rehbein *et al.*, 1997; Rendal and Callinan, 1996; Singh *et al.*, 1994; Williams and Plue, 1992; Maru *et al.*, 1990; Soll *et al.*, 1988). Some other workers found more than 99% efficacy of Ivermectin (Barth *et al.*, 1997; Pitt *et al.*, 1996; Cleartier and Pors, 1994). In this study 100% efficacy of Ivermectin against ectoparasites were recorded in crossbred cattle. This efficacy was detected by physical examination. Some other workers found 100% effectiveness of Ivermectin against ectoparasites (Titcherer *et al.*, 1994; Thompson *et al.*, 1994; Genchi and Tada, 1992; Gill *et al.*, 1989). After 7th day to the end of the experiment (28th day post treatment) no ectoparasites were seen on the body of the treated cattle.

The hematological changes in crossbred cattle affected with the gastrointestinal nematode were determined at pre and post treatment period dosed with Ivermectin. The mean value of hemoglobin of the cattle of control group was decreased and this result is in agreement with the reports of Nettleton and Beckelt (1976) and Auosa (1977). In this study, significant increases in Hb gm% and PCV% were found in the treated group of cattle which might be due to expulsion of blood sucking and other parasites from the body of treated cattle. There was a significant reduction in the ESR in treated group of cattle which might be a result of recovery from inflammation in gastrointestinal tract produced by gastrointestinal nematodes. Kumar and Joshi (1992) also found increase in Hb gm% level in ivermectin treated cattle.

The body weight of cattle infected with parasites was increased after using anthelmintics. Islam (1992) reported significant (P> 0.01) increase of bodyweight in cows and buffaloes after treatment with anthelmintics. In the present study the live weight gain was 5.13% after treatment with Ivermectin. This may be a result of proper digestion, absorption and metabolism of feed nutrient because of absence of gastrointestinal nematode infection. In earlier period some workers found improvement of body weight after treatment with Ivermectin (Rehbein *et al.*, 1997; Taylon *et al.*, 1995).

The present study was conducted on a small population of crossbred cattle and the efficacy of Ivermectin was ®determined on the basis of egg count reduction. Since there were some limitations neither any animals were slaughtered on post treatment days for detection of presence or absence of nematodes or any milk sample wasexamined for the presence of Ivermectin. It was not possible to study the effect of the drug on pregnant animal and embryo or fetus due to time limitation. Further study should be conducted to observe the effect of the drug on pregnant cattle and its embryo or fetus and its residue in milk.

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