


SECOND  
VETERINARY  
MEDICAL  
CONGRESS

25 

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SILVER ANNIVERSARY

1969 1994

WILMINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE  
OCTOBER 11-13, 1994

SPLENECTOMY IN THE CAMELUS DROMEDARIUS  
4- POSTOPERATIVE IMMUNE RESPONSE

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ABSTRACT

*The effect of splenectomy on the total and differential leucocytic counts, protein electrophoresis and chemiluminescence (CL) were studied in camel. There was a significant difference between the intervals days of operation (Pr. and 3,6,12,20,28,47 and 77 d.Po.) for all previous parameters. There was a tendency toward leucocytosis after the operation till 12. d.Po. with a fluctuating tendency toward a lymphocytosis (28-77 d.Po) and eosinophilia (47-77 d.Po.). Neutrophils (28-77 d.Po.) and monocytes (47-77 d.Po.) showed a decrease in the number relative to the Pr. levels. There was a decrease in the gamma globulins (47 d.Po.) and total globulins (77 d.Po.) with an increase in the total protein, albumin (77 d.Po), alpha 1 & 2 and beta globulins (47 d.Po.) relative to the Pr. levels. The A/G ratio severley decreased after the operation and returned to its Pr. level after 77 d.Po. The CL in the splenectomized camel was significantly higher than the normal camel either with PMA or OPZ.*

INTRODUCTION

Granulocytes and monocytes represent the major component of the phagocyte system of the blood. The phagocyte system is considered to be the first line of defence against a variety of microorganisms that invade the host. Several techniques have been used to study the physiology of phagocyte cells. Chemiluminescence (CL) has become an important tool to assess the bacteriocidal activity of various phagocyte cells in experimental and clinical studies (Allen, 1977; Barbour et al., 1980; Welch, 1980 and Tono-Oka et al., 1983). CL has been used to examine the nature of oxidative metabolism of phagocytosis which apparently correlates well with the microbiocidal activity ( Trush et al., 1978; Horan et al., 1982). In addition, the production of toxic-reactive metabolites as measured by CL was found to be closely related to



microbiocidal activity of phagocyte cells (Ballart et al., 1978). Phorbol myristate acetate (PMA-soluble agent) and opsonised (particulate antigen) yeast were used as phagocytic stimulant to produce a high CL response.

Much effort has been expended in attempting to unravel the way in which the spleen and lymph nodes take up foreign antigens and initiate the immune process. Studies in experimental animals clarify the importance of the spleen in clearing and trapping cellular antigens (Likhite, 1976). Splenectomized animals and congenitally a splenic mice reflect defective production of immunoglobulins that may parallel the inefficient thymus, bone marrow synergism observed in these animals (Battisto et al., 1969). Splenectomy also results in impairment of the immune response toward blood born particulate antigens (Motobashi, 1968).

The purpose of this study was to throw light on the effect of splenectomy on some immune responses of camel.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Animals:

Three healthy one-humped male camels ranging from 2 to 4 years old and one male splenectomized camel (2 years) bred in the farm of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Buriedah (King Saud University) were used in this study.

#### Blood collection:

Jugular blood samples were collected into tubes containing [EDTA or heparine (20 units /ml blood)] and also serum samples were obtained for protein electrophoresis. Two ml of blood from each tube (EDTA or heparin) were stored in an ice bath for the analysis of whole blood CL which was used within 3 hr. of collection. CL were carried out for splenectomized camel when neutrophil % were fixed (at 28, 47 & 77 day after operation).

Blood from the splenectomized camel were collected preoperative (Pr.) and post operative (Po.) at 3,6,12,20,28,47 and 77 days. Three samples with an hour interval for each day were obtained for statistical analysis.

**Total and differential leucocytic counts:** Were performed by the method of Doxey (1971).



**Serum protein electrophoresis:** Fractionation of serum proteins was carried out according to the method of **Bierer (1969)** on cellulose polyacetate strips (Gelman\*\* Instrument Co., Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.) in an electrophoresis system (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.) using a freshly prepared high resolution tris barbital sodium buffer (pH 8.8, ionic strength 0.05). The current was applied for 15 min. at a constant voltage 225 V. Strips containing the stained serum fractions were processed on a DCD 16 digital computing densitometer (\*\*).

**\* Chemiluminescence (CL) measurement:**

The principle of the CL assay is the oxidation of luminol, 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalzinedione (Boehringer Mannheim), by reactive oxygen species produced during phagocytosis in phagocytes. Luminol ( $10^{-5}$  M) enhance the amount of light generated by PMNs (polymorphonuclear leukocytes) upon stimulation with a soluble stimulus PMA (phorbol myristate acetate -2 ng/ml) and OPZ (opsonised zymosan, 1.25 ng/ml). Luminometer (LKB- Wallace 1251) with a constant temperature ( $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) monitor was used to measure CL. It records light emission in mV. on a digital display. The luminometer was set on the 60 seconds after addition of each stimulus (PMA & POZ) to the blood to allow the long period before the onset of CL. The reaction mixture consisted of 100  $\mu\text{l}$  (also, tested 200  $\mu\text{l}$  for comparison of effect of amount of blood on CL) whole blood and 900  $\mu\text{l}$  medium containing  $10^{-5}$  M luminol. The results were recorded and presented as CL maximum peak light (mV).

$$\text{Cl inhibition \%} = \frac{\text{Control ( PBS ) CL} - \text{Blood of camel Cl}}{\text{Control CL}} \times 100$$

PBS = phosphate buffer solution (0.14 M NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 12 mM  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$ , 0.9 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$  in distilled water)

**Opsonization of zymosan:**

Zymosan A (Sigma) was opsonized (OPZ) by suspending 50 mg in 3ml fresh pooled camel serum and 1 ml PBS, incubated for 30 min. at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  and then centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 10 min. at ambient temperature. The supernatant was then removed and the pellet was washed twice with buffer. After a second centrifugation, the pellet was resuspended in PBS at concentration of 1.25 mg/ml and stored in the freezer until use.



#### Statistical analysis:

Results were expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviations (SD). Data were evaluated by analysis of variance for leucocytic count and protein electrophoresis in between intervals days (I.d) of operation and the differences between I.d. determined by the method of least significant differences. Also, student's T-test for CL in between normal and splenectomized camel were done.

#### RESULTS

The mean values for plasma proteins and their fractions are presented in Table 1. The table indicates a significant differences in between I.d. of operation. The plasma proteins and protein fraction were significantly decreased at 3 d.Po. with the exception of alpha 1 and gamma globulin which increased. Relative to the pre-operative level, there was a decrease in the gamma globulins (47 d.Po.) and total globulins (77 d.Po.) with an increase in total protein, albumin (77 d. Po.), alpha 1 and 2 and beta globulins (47 d.Po.). The A/G ratio severely decreased after operation and returned to pre-operative level after 77 d.Po.

Table 2 reveals a tendency toward leucocytosis after splenectomy till 12 d.Po. The post-operative differential leucocytic count was characterized by a fluctuating tendency toward lymphocytosis (28-77 d.Po.) and eosinophilia (47 - 77 d.Po.). Neutrophils (28-77 d.Po.) and monocytes (47 - 77 d.Po.) showed a decrease in the number relative to the Pr. numbers.

Table -3 indicates that the CL in the splenectomized camel to be significantly higher than the normal camels either with PMA or OPZ. Moreover, table 3 showed that the CL were decreased with addition of EDTA either in normal or splenectomized camels. Also, from table 3 & 4 the CL was significantly increased when 100  $\mu$ l blood with heparin was used with OPZ as stimulant.

#### DISCUSSION

The recorded results in the total proteins of splenectomized camel agree with the previous results of Moore and Van Den Hend (1978) in horse and Bolbal et al. (1982) in sheep. Splenectomy has no profound effect on immunological responsiveness. Nevertheless the spleen is an important source of antibodies (Myerson, 1957) and its removal

delays the peak of antibody response in young birds, and depresses antibody production in older birds (Freeman, 1983). It is of particular interest that the production of antibody proteins was not inhibited in splenectomized persons who had been immunized with tetanus toxoid (Myerson, 1957), whereas inhibition in antibody protein production occurred in splenectomized cattle infected with anaplasmosis (Ristic et al., 1958).

The A/G ratio in the present study returned to its preoperative level at 77d. Po. which is of importance in maintaining the osmotic pressure balance of the serum proteins (Dimopoullose et al., 1959). Since albumin contributes more to osmotic pressure than do the globulins (Cohn, 1945), a compensatory increase in this fraction may still be required after surgical shock, loss of blood and recovery. The possibility also exists that hypertrophic non-splenic lymphoid tissues produced this increased proportion of albumin to globulin.

The leucocytosis occurring in the present study after splenectomy is documented by the findings of (Lipson et al., 1959; McBride et al., 1968) (human) and Said et al., in press (donkeys). The observed increase in lymphocyte is in agreement with the results of Crosby (1963) who suggested that after removal of the spleen, its functions are to some extent taken over by other lymphoid organs. McBride et al., (1968) reported that the spleen plays some part in the regulation of lymphocyte count.

The recorded decrease in neutrophil in the present study is in agreement with Said et al. (in press) in donkeys. This results disagrees with that in human. The neutropenia of hypersplenism has been attributed to selective removal of neutrophils by the spleen. It is associated with neutrophilic hyperplasia of the marrow and is corrected by splenectomy (Henry, 1983).

Several techniques have been used to study the physiology of phagocyte cells. The intravenous clearance of radioactive colloids and carbon colloids are, commonly, used in both clinical and experimental studies to evaluate the phagocytosis in vivo. In addition, serum lysozyme level was used as an indication for phagocytosis (Koskoshis and



Diluzio, 1979). On the otherhand, there are several in vitro techniques which have been well established e.g. red oil emulsion, and nitroblue tetrazolium. Furthermore, chemiluminescence has become an important tool to assess the bacteriocidal activity of various phagocyte cells in experimental and clinical studies (Welch, 1980 and Tono-Oka et al., 1983). The observed decrease in CL with addition of EDTA in the present study, agrees with Ross et al., (1981) in human and Nagahata et al. (1991) in dogs. The authors demonstrated that the binding of C<sub>3</sub>-Coated zymosan and C<sub>3</sub>+ IgG - coated zymosan to neutrophils was completely inhibited by the addition of EDTA. In present study, the CL in splenectomized camel were significantly higher than normal camel CL., which agrees with the study of Nagahata et al., (1991) in dogs (without removal of spleen). Who, found that the enhanced CL responses may be associated with activation of neutrophils by inflammatory conditions.

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Table (1): Electrophoretic pattern of serum proteins in splenectomized camel.

Intervals from splenectomy (Days =d)	Total protein g/dl	Albumin g/dl	Globulin g/dl	A/G ratio	Globulin fractions (%)			
					Alpha 1	Alpha 2	Beta	
Pr.	5.79b	2.58b	3.21d	0.80a	1.00d	10.50c	15.50e	22.55d
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
3 d.po.	0.10	0.02	0.11	0.03	0.05	0.20	0.17	0.20
	4.46c	1.80d	2.66c	0.68b	1.50c	6.50f	14.55f	23.00c
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
6 d.po.	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.13	0.19	0.13	0.21
	5.32c	1.93c	3.39c	0.57c	2.00b	12.00d	20.00d	16.50f
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
12 d.po.	0.06	0.04	0.12	0.01	0.20	0.15	0.28	0.27
	5.80b	1.93c	3.87a	0.50c	1.50c	13.00c	20.00d	25.01b
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
20 d.po.	0.10	0.13	0.11	0.04	0.11	0.30	0.35	0.44
	5.21c	1.43e	3.78b	0.38c	1.50c	14.00b	22.00c	28.00a
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
28 d.po.	0.12	0.05	0.13	0.00	0.01	0.21	0.30	0.17
	4.76d	1.18f	3.58b	0.33f	2.00b	12.00d	28.00a	23.00c
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
47 d.po.	0.21	0.01	0.14	0.00	0.03	0.40	0.21	0.18
	5.39c	1.70d	3.69b	0.46b	3.00a	15.00a	25.00b	19.00e
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
77 d.po.	0.11	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.05	0.22	0.25	0.09
	6.01a	2.73a	3.30d	0.80a	±	±	±	±
	±	±	±	±	±	±	±	±
	0.14	0.09	0.21	0.15	±	±	±	±
LSD	0.2073	0.1069	0.2203	0.0979	0.1813	0.4396	0.4407	0.4191

Mean ± SD  
 Pr: Pre-operative  
 Po: Post-operative  
 LSD: Least significant differences.  
 a,b,c,d,e,f,g..... is the arrangement of highly significant values to less one.

Table (2): Mean values of total and differential leucocytic cell counts in splenectomized camel blood.

Intervals from splenectomy (Days =d)	Total leucocytic count $10^3/\text{cu. mm.}$	Differential leucocytic counts (%)				
		Neutrophils	Lymphocytes	Monocytes	Eosinophils	Basophils
Pr.	4.00e	66.00c	20.00g	10.00b	4.00d	0.00
3 d.po.	± 0.51 23.00b	± 0.21 60.00c	± 0.31 30.00f	± 0.81 6.00d	± 0.24 4.00d	± 0.00 0.00
6 d.po.	± 0.73 27.00a	± 0.01 8.00h	± 0.80 80.00 <sup>a</sup>	± 0.60 10.00b	± 0.20 2.00e	± 0.00 0.00
12 d.po.	± 0.25 19.50c	± 0.14 75.00a	± 1.24 15.00h	± 0.82 8.00c	± 0.10 2.00e	± 0.00 0.00
20 d.po.	± 0.34 8.00d	± 0.15 26.00g	± 0.25 54.00b	± 0.71 6.00d	± 0.30 14.00a	± 0.00 0.00
28 d.po.	± 0.15 8.50d	± 0.20 47.00e	± 0.31 36.00e	± 0.35 15.00a	± 0.50 2.00e	± 0.00 0.00
47 d.po.	± 0.20 8.90d	± 0.40 43.00f	± 0.41 40.00c	± 1.35 3.00e	± 0.20 8.00b	± 0.00 0.00
77 d.po.	± 0.13 18.65e	± 0.21 50.00d	± 0.90 38.00d	± 0.21 5.00d	± 0.10 7.00c	± 0.00 0.00
LSD	± 1.50 1.1422	± 0.99 0.7006	± 0.76 1.4748	± 1.00 1.3930	± 1.15 0.8756	

pr : pre - operative  
 po : Post -operative  
 LSD : Least significant differences.  
 a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,..... is the arrangement of highly significant values to less one.  
 Means with the same letter are not significantly different ( $P < 0.0001$ )



**Table (3): Effect of splenectomy on the chemiluminescence (CL) response of camel's whole blood stimulated with PMA and OPZ using different anticoagulants.**

	PMA		% inhibition		OPZ		% inhibition	
	Heparine	EDTA	Heparine	EDTA	Heparine	EDTA	Heparine	EDTA
Normal	Base Line (mV)	0.771 ± 0.084	0.583 ± 0.013	0.00	0.771 ± 0.084	0.582 ± 0.013	0.00	0.00
	Peak CL (mV)	2.519 ± 0.488	1.423** ± 0.234	0.00	15.027 ± 3.470	0.614 ± 0.072	0.00	0.00
Splenectomized	Base Line (mV)	0.843 ± 0.050	0.525 ± 0.031	0.00	1.333 ± 0.897	0.705 ± 0.186	0.00	0.00
	Peak CL (mV)	3.459** ± 0.185	0.725 ± 0.025	0.00	33.60** ± 4.038	3.068** ± 0.349	0.00	0.00

Highly significant (\*\* P < 0.01) 2 ng/ml PMA, 1.25 mg/ml OPZ and 10<sup>-5</sup> M luminol were used at 37°C

**Table (4): Chemiluminescence (CL) response of camel's whole blood stimulated with OPZ using different blood volume.**

Base line (mV)	100 ul Blood	200 ul Blood
Peak CL (mV)	1.143 ± 0.039	0.537 ± 0.34
	38.251 ± 0.047 **	9.358 ± 0.042

Mean ± S.D. (\*\* P < 0.01) 1.25 mg/ml opsonized zymosan (OPZ) and 10<sup>-5</sup> M luminol were used at 37°C.

## استئصال الطحال فى الجمال

٤- رد الفعل المناعى بعد العمليه

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جامعة الرقازيق - فرع بنها

تأثير إستئصال الطحال على العدد الكلى والتنوعى لكرات الدم البيضاء والفصل الكهربى للبروتينات واللمعان الكيمائى قد تم دراسته على الجمال وقد لوحظ ان هناك فروق معنويه قبل العمليه وبعد العمليه بـ ٣ ، ٦ ، ١٢ ، ٢٠ ، ٢٨ ، ٤٧ ، ٧٧ . يوم لاغلب النقاط التى سبق ذكرها . وقد وجد ان هناك ميل لزيادة عدد كرات الدم البيضاء حتى اليوم ١٢ بعد العمليه مع زياده ملحوظه فى الخلايا الليمفاويه ( من اليوم ٢٨ - ٧٧ بعد العمليه ) وكذلك الخلايا الحمضيه ( ٤٧ - ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه - بينما لوحظ نقص فى عدد كل من الخلايا المتعادله ( ٢٨ - ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) والخلايا وحيدته النواه ( ٤٧ - ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) بالمقارنه بالعد قبل العمليه . كما وجدنا ان تركيزات كل من جاما جلوبيولين ( ٤٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) والجلوبيينات الكليه ( ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) قد نقصت بينما مستويات البروتينات الكليه والالبومين ( ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) والفا ٢,١ وبيتا جلوبيولين ( ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه ) قد ازدادت بالمقارنه بـ المستويات قبل العمليه . ونسبه A/G قد نقصت بصوره شديده بعد العمليه واستعادت مستوياتها قبل العمليه بعد ٧٧ يوم بعد العمليه كما وجد ان اللمعان الكيمائى عند استئصال الطحال قد سجل فرق معنوى عالى بهيقارنته بالجمال الطبيعى ( بدون استئصال الطحال ) سواء مع PMA أو OPZ .