

# Chemotherapy of *Buxtonella sulcata* in cattle in Sanandj, Iran

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## Abstract

Parasitic nematodes are one of the most important causes of production losses in most cattle-producing countries of the world. The aim of the present study Chemotherapy of *B. sulcata* in cattle in the Sanandj (Iran). The overall comparative efficacy of oxytetracycline and metronidazole was 66% and 32% respectively.

**Keywords:** *Buxtonella Sulcata*; Chemotherapy; Sanandj.

## 1. Introduction

*Buxtonella sulcata* is a commensal protozoan of the alimentary tract of ruminants and participates in the digestion of plant aliment (Huang et al., 2012). This parasite belongs to the Kingdom: Protozoa, Phylum: Ciliphora, Class: Kinetofragminophora, Order: Trichostromatidae, Family: Pyenotrichidae, Genus: *Buxtonella* (Al-Zubaidi and Al-Mayah, 2011). *Buxtonella sulcata* is very similar to a species that occur in pigs and humans (*Balantidium coli*) (Tomczuk et al., 2005). Studies revealed a strong relationship between the intensity of infection with this parasite (number of cysts per gram of feces) and diarrhea in cattle. The first reported infection from cattle with *B. sulcata* in Iraq (Al-Qadissiyah) was in 2005 (Tomczuk et al., 2005, Aayiz, 2005). This study describes the chemotherapy of *B. sulcata* in cattle in the region of the Sanandj (Iran).

## 2. Material and method

Faecal samples were collected between May 2013 and June 2014 in Sanandaj province. A total of 217 cattle were selected randomly according to the age, sex, health status, management system and seasons of the year from different villages of Sanandaj province. The 217 fecal samples were collected directly from the rectum of these animals by wearing an apron, hand gloves and gumboot to avoid contamination. Samples were immediately placed in sterile bottles for transport to the laboratory. Samples not tested immediately were held at 4-8°C for no longer than 3 days. The collected faecal samples were examined by Stoll's ova counting techniques for determining the number of cysts or trophozoites per gram of faeces by their characteristic morphological features as described by Soulsby (Ferry et al., 2004). Morphological tests were conducted in the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tehran. Faecal samples were collected at day 3, pretreatment, and days 8, 12, post treatment, for cyst counts to show the effect of drug treatment.

## 3. Result and discussion

Of 99 cattle from 217 that were positive for *B. sulcata*, 30 were selected randomly and placed in two groups, A and B. Group A was treated with oxytetracycline and group B was treated with metronidazole. The third group named C was a positive group and group D was selected as a negative group. Efficacy of drugs used in this study was determined on the basis of reduction in cysts/trophozoites count of this parasite. The cyst count pre on day 0, 3, 8 and 12 was different in the groups A, B, C and D as given in (Table 6). The comparative efficacy of oxytetracycline and metronidazole on day 12 was 66% and 32% respectively (Table 7).

**Table 6:** *Buxtonella Sulcata* Cyst Count Before and after Treatment

Name of drug	Efficacy of drug at different days		
	3	8	12
oxytetracycline	20	37	66
metronidazole	7	21	32

**Table 7:** Efficacy of Oxytetracycline and Metronidazole at Different Days

Name of groups	B.coli cyst count at different days post treatment			
	0	3	8	12
A – Oxytetracycline treated	318.17±35.19	273.19±18.14	201.45±29.73	109.17±19.38
B – Metronidazole treated	308.11±18.43	297.16±13.21	243.16±15.39	210.08±21.02
C – positive control group	301.01±11.21	308.13±21.41	309.16±41.21	308.18±25.31
D – negative control group	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00

Animals that were treated with oxytetracycline showed a statistically significant reduction in mean faecal cyst count. This suggests that oxytetracycline is a useful therapeutic agent against *B. sulcata* infection but further studies are required to confirm. This study demonstrates that cattle are highly susceptible to *B. sulcata* infec-

tion under a variety of housing and environmental conditions in this region of Iran. This is likely to have economic and welfare implications for farmers and cattle in the region and further studies would be beneficial to assess the impact of improved housing conditions, hygiene and therapeutic agents in the control of *B. sulcata* infection in the region. This study showed that oxytetracycline was more effective than oxytetracycline or metronidazole. This study showed a high rate of sensitive to oxytetracycline among isolates *B. sulcata*. Therefore, the correct selection of appropriate antibiotics to treat infections caused by *B. sulcata* and prevention of resistance to antibiotics effective against most strains is important.

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