

# The relationship between *Salmonella* infection and liver fluke infestation in slaughter sheep

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## Abstract

The study aimed to detect the relationship between *Salmonella* infection and liver fluke infestation in slaughter sheep and the association of them with sex and age. Two hundred forty Awassi sheep were divided into two groups, first group (120) healthy animals free from liver fluke (control group), while the second group (120) animals infected with liver fluke (infected group). Different samples were collected from all animals includes, liver, bile, fecal samples and liver fluke were conducted to bacteriological and serological examination for detection of *Salmonella* and parasitological examination for detection of *Fasciola* spp. Results revealed that the percentage of *Salmonella* isolated from control group were (15%) while in the infected group were (25.83%). According to samples, liver, fecal samples and liver fluke showed a higher percent of *Salmonella* infection in the infected group in comparison with control group with a significant difference at ( $p < 0.05$ ). A high percent of isolation of *Salmonella* from male (23.07%) than the percentage in female (8.82%). Moreover results indicated high percentage isolate of *Salmonella* in animals aged 3-4 years.

## Introduction

*Salmonellosis* is one of few diseases that are increasing in prevalence (1). *Salmonella* is zoonotic pathogen that is capable of infection for humans and domestic animals (2). *Salmonella* infections are usually confined the gastrointestinal tract characterized by acute diarrhea and fever and are generally self limited (3,4). The prevalence of infection varies among species and countries and is much higher than the incidence of clinical disease, which is commonly precipitated by stressful situations such as sudden deprivation of feed transportation, drought, crowding, parturition and administration of some drug (5). Moreover there are often non-infectious predisposing disease such as parturient paresis, ketosis, mastitis and parasitic infestation (6,7). In Baghdad city, Al-Talib

(8) was record a percentage of 4.8% of *Salmonella* in sheep with (11) isolates 3 isolates from 140 fecal diarrheal samples and 8 isolates from 85 gall bladder samples) and these isolates belongs to *S. enteritidis* and *S. newport* serotypes. Al-Sanjary (9) was report different percentage of *Salmonella* infection in different organs and feces of goat and sheep in Mousl city in Iraq. There is also some evidence which indicate that liver fluke infected cattle is more susceptible to infection with *S. dublin* than cattle free of liver fluke. The same is likely to be true for sheep (10,11). The objective of this study was to determine the percentage of *Salmonella* isolates in liver, bile and fecal samples in normal sheep compared to infected sheep with liver flukes.

## Materials and methods

**Animals:** Two hundred forty slaughtered Awassi sheep were used in this study. The sheep divided into two groups

- Group 1:-(Control group) composed of 120 slaughtered sheep from different age and sex and they had not infected with liver flukes.

- Group 2:-(Infected group) composed of 120 slaughtered sheep infected with liver fluke from different ages and sex.

This study has been started from march to December 2006 and samples were collected from different slaughter houses in Al-

Diwanya ,Al-Shamiya, Afak and Al-Daghara (in Al-Qadesyia governorate).

**Samples** collected according to Coles(12). 240 liver samples from both groups ;240 bile samples; 240 Fecal samples were collected directly from rectum of slaughtered sheep and examined for *Salmonella* and for liver fluke and 120 liver fluke (*Fasciola*) samples collected from bile duct of infected sheep only.

### Bacterial isolation

All samples were conducted for bacterial isolation .liver, bile, Fasciola (minised) and fecal samples by cultured

Infected sheep with liver fluke give positive result for *Salmonella* in 31 animals out of 120 animals with a percentage of 25.83% while in the control group positive result was 18 animals out of 120 with a percentage of 15%. There was a relation

them in tetrathionate broth and incubated at 37 for 24 hours .Then sub- cultured on *Salmonella –Shigella* agar and incubated under same condition ,the isolates were identified according to their morphology ,size, color and shape of colonies .biochemical tests and serological diagnosis were conducted according to the method of (13) .

**Parasite isolation**:-Sedimentation procedure to detect the presence of fluke eggs in the feces (12).Statistical analysis :-Chi square x 2 was used to compare between two groups (14).

### Results

between isolation of *Salmonella* and liver fluke infestation and this relation was statistically significant at ( $p < 0.05$ ) as showed in table( 1).

Table (1) Isolation of *Salmonella* in both groups according to animals

Sheep	+ve for <i>Salmonella</i>	%	-ve for <i>Salmonella</i>	%
Infected with liver fluke	31	25.83	89	74.17
Control	18	15	102	85
Total	49	20.41	191	79.59

(+ve): No. of positive *Salmonella* isolates ; (-ve): No. of negative *Salmonella* isolates

*Salmonella* species were isolated from different samples of 49 slaughtered sheep

.The total numbers of isolates were 67 with a percentage of 7.97% ,(table 2).

Table (2) *Salmonella* isolated from different samples

Samples	Total no.	No of samples +ve <i>Salmonella</i>	%	No of samples -ve <i>Salmonella</i>	%
Liver	240	28	11.66	212	88.34
Bile	240	4	1.66	236	98.34
Feces	240	30	12.5	210	87.5
Liver fluke	120	5	4.16	115	95.84
Total	840	67	7.97	773	92.03

Regarding the *Salmonella* isolates percentage from different samples of both control and infected sheep groups were observed in table (3), statically difference

recorded in infected group in liver and fecal samples and liver fluke itself at( $p < 0.05$ ) .

Table(3) *Salmonella* isolates percentage from both sheep groups according to different samples

Samples	Control				Infected			
	+ve	%	-ve	%	+ve	%	-ve	%
Liver	6	5	114	95	22	18.33	98	81.67
Bile	3	2.5	117	97.5	1	0.83	119	99.17
Fecal samples	10	8.33	110	91.67	20	16.66	100	83.34
Liver fluke	-	-	-	-	5	4.16	115	95.84

(+ve): No. of positive *Salmonella* isolates ; (-ve): No. of negative *Salmonella* isolates

The results of culture of liver fluke itself from sheep infected with liver fluke showed that salmonella have been isolated from 5 out of 120 samples with percentage (4.16%) as showed in table (2). It has been indicated

a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) correlation between *Salmonella* and liver fluke infestation in females where as no significant correlation were detected in males. table(4)

Table (4)percentage of *Salmonella* in both groups of sheep according to their sex.

Sex	Control				Infected			
	+ve	%	-ve	%	+ve	%	-ve	%
Female	6	8.82	62	91.17	13	20.31	51	79.69
Male	12	23.07	40	76.93	18	32.14	38	67.86
Total	18	15	102	85	31	25.83	89	74.17

(+ve): No. of positive *Salmonella* isolates ; (-ve): No. of negative *Salmonella* isolates

In all age groups there were differences in the percentage of *Salmonella* isolated in both groups

,but the difference between two groups in female group were statistically not significant(  $P < 0.05$ ) table 5.

Table (5) percentage of *Salmonella* isolated from female in both groups according to their age.

Age group	Control				Infected				$\chi^2$
	+ve	%	-ve	%	+ve	%	-ve	%	
6month-1 year	1	14.28	6	85.72	1	25	3	75	0
1-2 years	1	5	19	95	3	27.27	8	72.73	3.42
2-3 years	0	0	14	100	3	16.66	15	83.34	1.7
3-4 years	1	10	9	90	2	40	3	60	1.88
4-5 years	2	20	8	80	1	8.33	11	91.67	1.71
5-6years	1	14.28	6	85.72	3	21.45	11	78.55	0
Total	6	8.82	62	91.18	13	20.31	51	79.69	-

(+ve): No. of positive *Salmonella* isolates ; (-ve): No. of negative *Salmonella* isolates

The results indicated that there were difference in the percentage of *Salmonella* isolates from male in both groups according

to their age, the differences were statistically significant as showed in table (6).

Table (6) percentage of *Salmonella* isolated from male in both groups according to their age.

Age group	Controle				Infected				$\chi^2$
	+ve	%	-ve	%	+ve	%	-ve	%	
6month-1 year	1	6.66	14	93.34	3	14.28	18	85.72	1.2
1-2 years	3	60	2	40	1	7.14	13	92.86	6.7
More than 2-3 years	1	11.11	8	88.89	3	75	1	25	7.3
More than 3-4 years	2	22.22	7	77.78	8	57.14	6	42.86	3
More than 4-5 years	3	33.33	6	66.67	3	100	0	0	7.8
More than 5-6years	2	40	3	60	0	0	0	0	0
Total	12	23.07	40	76.93	18	32.14	38	67.86	-

(+ve): No. of positive *Salmonella* isolates ; (-ve): No. of negative *Salmonella* isolates

### Discussion

*Salmonellosis* remains an important clinical problem in veterinary medicine not only because of animal infection caused by organism ,but also because of risks posed to humans from animal infections and animal products (2,3,5). Clinical disease may develop from subclinical and latent infections if affected animals are stressed (15) fecal contamination of feed and water supplies with salmonella organism can cause outbreak in stressed sheep (16).Liver fluke infections in cattle can predispose cows to infectious disease such as *Salmonellosis* and the same is likely to be true for sheep (11).The results of this study revealed that the infection rate in control group was (15%) which *Salmonella* has been isolated from different types of samples which represented carrier state as reported by(5,17,18).The results agreed with previous studies in sheep, Al-Azawi (19); Nabbut and Al-Nakhli(20) which reported that the percentage of *Salmonella* was 14.7 % in sheep , while this percentage was higher than the result of previous study by Mohammed (21) which was carried on fecal samples of sheep.The present study revealed low percentage of *Salmonella* isolates in liver, fecal samples and liver flukes in the control group While in the infected group a higher percentage of *Salmonella* isolates

appeared in the liver; fecal samples and liver flukes with a statistically difference at ( $P < 0.05$ ) and ( $P < 0.01$ ). this percentage was more than the study of Al –Dulaimi (22) who reported that *Salmonella* isolated from liver and spleen at a percent of 2-3%. .Breitischwerdt (23) was report that the *Salmonella* invade the payers patches and then disseminate to the lymph node ,liver and spleen. Also our results was agree with previous study by Allen (5) who report that stressed sheep carry salmonella in their intestine and shed the infection in their dung when under stress .there is association between two groups and this association was statistically significant at ( $P < 0.05$ ).In the control group *Salmonella* isolated from male with percentage of 23.07 % and from female 8.82 % the difference was significant =4.3( $P < 0.05$ ), the result agreed with (24) and the difference may be attributed to the hormonal differences which lead to the hormonal differences which lead to variation in the natural immunity between male and female (25).Regarding the results of *Salmonella* isolation according to their sex there was higher percentage in male (32.14%) compared to female(20.31%) the differences were statistically not significant at  $P > 0.05$  that male and female were infected with liver flukes equally due to increase of their

susceptibility to salmonella infection ,the stressed animals will increase steroid production and may become immunosuppressive and this will help precipitate the disease (26) .The results of *Salmonella* isolation rate according to the age groups ,the higher rate was appeared in age 4-5 years in control group and the explanation for this that subclinical

infections are observed in older animals and young animals rarely become carriers (5, 27) . The results in infected group showed a higher percentage in 3-4 years of age .this result referred that the outcome of host pathogen interaction include immunity ,host dose and virulence of pathogen and environmental and management factors (23).

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## العلاقة بين الإصابة بالسالمونيلا والخمج بديدان الكبد في الأغنام المذبوحة

فيصل غازي حباشة

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### الخلاصة

استهدفت الدراسة التحري عن العلاقة بين الإصابة بالسالمونيلا والخمج بديدان الكبد في الأغنام وعلاقة ذلك بالجنس والعمر. شملت الدراسة فحص 240 رأس ضأن من سلالة عواسي قسمت إلى مجموعتين، المجموعة الأولى (120 حيوان) تتألف من الأغنام المصابة بالسليمة والخالية من ديدان الكبد، اعتبرت مجموعة سيطرة، والمجموعة الثانية (120 حيوان) تتألف من الأغنام المصابة بديدان الكبد. فحصت النماذج المختلفة من الكبد وسائل الصفراء، والبراز وكذلك دودة الكبد (بمختلف الطرائق الجرثومية والمصلية للكشف عن تواجد بكتريا السالمونيلا والفحوصات الطفيلية للكشف عن ديدان الكبد. أظهرت النتائج إلى إن نسبة عزل السالمونيلا في مجموعة السيطرة كانت 15% ونسبة عزل السالمونيلا في الأغنام المصابة كانت 25.8%. وتبعاً للنماذج لوحظ إن الكبد والبراز وديدان الكبد أعلى نسبة إصابة في المجموعة الثانية المصابة بديدان الكبد مقارنة بمجموعة السيطرة وبفارق معنوي عند مستوى ( $p < 0.05$ ). كما وإن نسبة عزل السالمونيلا في الذكور كانت 23.07% أعلى مما عليه في الإناث 8.82% لقد أشارت النتائج أيضاً بان هنالك فرق معنوي إحصائياً في الفئة العمرية 3-4 سنوات في نسبة السالمونيلا في المجموعتين السيطرة والمصابة بديدان الكبد .

\*البحث مستل من رسالة ماجستير (2007).