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Kovacevic, Zorana; Stojanovic, Dragica; Cincovic, Marko; Belic, Branislava; Davidov,
Ivana; Erdeljan, Mihajlo

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Hematological Parameters in Cows in Early Lactation Treated with Ketoprofen and their Relationship with Lipid Mobilization and Ketogenesis

Zorana Kovacevic, Dragica Stojanovic, Marko Cincovic, Branislava Belic, Ivana Davidov & Mihajlo Erdeljan

ABSTRACT

Background: Dairy cows are exposed to numerous hematological and biochemical changes, what is bringing cows into the state of increased metabolic activity and physiological adaptations. These adaptive processes have resulted in increased lipid mobilization and ketogenesis with increased concentration of non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) and beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB). As a non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, ketoprofen produces anti-inflammatory effects. The main objective of the present study was to found relationship between hematological parameters and ketoprofen administration and high lipid mobilization and ketogenesis in cows treated with ketoprofen immediately after calving.

Materials, Methods & Results: Ketoprofen was used (3 mg/kg body weight) intramuscularly for three consecutive days post-partum on 15 cows of Holstein-Friesian breed. Cows of the control group ($n = 15$) were not treated with ketoprofen. Blood samples were collected at the day of calving, in the first and in the second week after parturition from the coccygeal vein of the both groups. Hematological parameters (erythrocytes, hemoglobin, neutrophils, lymphocytes and mean platelet volume) were determined on the automatic hematological counter. Metabolic parameters (NEFA, BHB) were determined by standard colorimetric kits using a semi-automatic biochemistry analyzer. Student's t-test was used to determine the influence of the application of ketoprofen to the hematological parameters. The data analysis was performed using SPSS, version 19.0, software package for Microsoft Windows (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). The results of comparison with ($P < 0.05$) were considered to represent statistically significant differences. Difference in correlation test between NEFA and BHB and other blood parameters in experimental and control group of cows were determined by the Fischer r-to-z transformation. The research results show that there was a increased red blood cell count and a higher concentration of hemoglobin ($P < 0.05$), fewer neutrophils ($P < 0.01$), lower number of lymphocytes ($P < 0.01$) and fewer mean platelet volume in cows that received ketoprofen after calving than those of the control. Determined hematological parameters and values of NEFA and BHB are in correlation. The correlation coefficients were significantly lower in the experimental group of cows. The intensity of the connection between hematological parameters and value of NEFA and BHB decreases.

Discussion: It is well known that dairy cows with excessive adiposity manifest a low-grade inflammation and that elevated NEFA concentrations present positive risk factors for many proinflammatory diseases. Analyzing the results in this examination, it has been noticed that the increase of NEFA and BHB after calving were significantly lower in group of cows treated with ketoprofen. Also, determined hematological parameters and values of NEFA and BHB are in correlation. The intensity of these connection decreases in ketoprofen treated cows. In current study, in cows treated with ketoprofen there is decrease in concentrations of inflammatory mediators such as neutrophils and lymphocytes. Red blood cell and hemoglobin concentration decreased in the peripartal period as a result of inflammation. In cows treated with ketoprofen these concentrations increased. In many inflammatory conditions mean platelets volume is increased while there is a decrease in ketoprofen treated cows. Presented results indicate strong relationship between the concentration of NEFA, as well as BHB and hematological parameters indicating that the dependence of hematological parameters of intensity of lipid mobilization and ketogenesis was significantly lower in cows treated with ketoprofen immediately after calving.

Keywords: ketoprofen, hematological parameters, lipid mobilization, ketogenesis, dairy cows.

INTRODUCTION

The transition period spans from three weeks before to three weeks after calving [12,30] when dairy cows experience a sudden increase in energy requirements imposed by the onset of lactation and by negative energy balance (NEB) [20]. A significant adaptation to the NEB is the lipid mobilization from adipose tissue what cause increase in blood concentration of non-esterified fatty acids (NEFA) and beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB) [17].

Increased circulating NEFA concentrations may presents positive risk factors for many inflammatory diseases in dairy cows [5,10,25,31] and can impaired lymphocyte function [11,19]. Also, the link between inflammatory diseases and metabolic responses around calving may be mediated through impaired neutrophil function [6,14]. Number of eritrocytes and hemoglobin concentration are impaired [4].

The activity of the eicosanoid-producing enzymes cyclooxygenase (COX) and 15 lipoxigenase is increased during the transition period [1,27]. COX pathway products are related to inflammatory events and in dairy cows, the COX pathway is composed of 2 enzyme isoforms, COX-1 and COX-2 [11,7].

All NSAIDs (non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) produces anti-inflammatory effects by inhibiting cyclooxygenase enzymes, which leads to decreased pain and inflammation. As a NSAID, ketoprofen inhibits both izooforme COX enzyme, although it is considered as a COX-1 selective drug [8,28].

The aim of the present study was to found relationship between hematological parameters and ketoprofen administration and high lipid mobilization and ketogenesis in cows treated with ketoprofen immediately after calving.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals and blood collection

Experimental group of animals included 15 Holstein-Friesian cows treated with ketoprofen immediately after calving, while control group included 15 cows and they were not treated with ketoprofen. Ketoprofen was administered in therapeutic dose, intramuscularly, 3 mg/kg body weight in the period of three consecutive days after parturition, starting at the first day post partum. Blood samples of the experimental and control group of cows were collected at

commercial dairy farm in Banatska Topola, Republic of Serbia. They were taken three times, after calving, in the first and in the second week after parturition. They were collected from the coccygeal vein using sterile vacuum tubes¹ containing serum separation gel for hematological analyses and using sterile vacuum tubes² containing EDTA for biochemical analyses.

Measurement of hematological and metabolic parameters

Hematological parameters such as the total number of erythrocytes, hemoglobin concentration, number of neutrophils, lymphocytes and the mean platelet volume were determined by hematological analysis on the counter Analyser³. Metabolic parameters such as NEFA and BHB were determined by using the colorimetric reaction according to the manufacturer's instructions using Colorimetric Kits⁴ and were measured using a semi-automatic biochemistry Analyzer⁵.

Statistical analyses

Student's *t*-test was used to determine the influence of the application of ketoprofen to the hematological parameters. The data analysis was performed using SPSS, version 19.0, software package for Microsoft Windows (IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). The results of comparison with $P < 0.05$ were considered to represent statistically significant differences.

Difference in correlation test between NEFA and BHB and other blood parameters in experimental and control group of cows were determined by the Fischer *r*-to-*z* transformation.

RESULTS

The research results show that there is a decreases in NEFA and BHB concentrations in cows treated with ketoprofen than those of the control group [Figures 1 & 2].

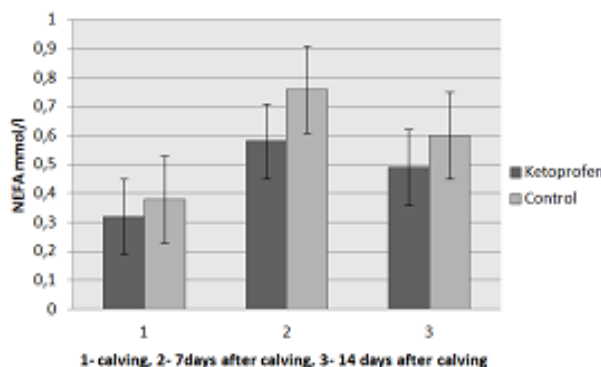


Figure 1. Effect of ketoprofen on NEFA concentration in cows in early lactation.

Group of cows treated with ketoprofen show increases of red blood cell count in the first and in the second week after parturition [Figure 3]. Also, there is higher concentration of hemoglobin in experimental group of cows [Figure 4]. Fewer neutrophils concentration is present in cows treated with ketoprofen in the first and in the second week after parturition [Figure 5]. Also, there is decreases in number of lymphocytes in experimental group of cows in the first and in the second week after parturition [Figure 6].

There is fewer mean platelet volume in cows that received ketoprofen after calving than those of the control [Figure 7]. Determined hematological parameters and values of NEFA and BHB are in correlation. As shown in Table 1, the correlation coefficients were significantly lower in the experimental group of cows and the intensity of the connection between hematological parameters and value of NEFA and BHB decreases.

Table 1. Effect of the application of ketoprofen on correlations between parameters in cows in early lactation

	NEFA	BHB
Erythrocytes	0.37	NS
	0.35	NS
Hemoglobin	NS	-0.52
	NS	-0.31*
Neutrophils	0.54	0.49
	0.24**	0.32*
Lymphocytes	0.49	NS
	0.31*	NS
Mean platelet volume	0.42	0.36
	0.32*	0.22*

a-correlation in a group that did not receive ketoprofen, b-correlation of the group of cows who received ketoprofen. The significance of the difference in the coefficient of correlation in cows receiving and not receiving ketoprofen for $n=45$. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$.

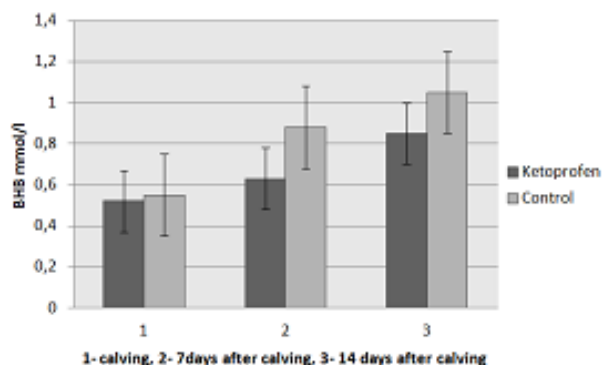


Figure 2. Effect of ketoprofen on BHB concentration in cows in early lactation.

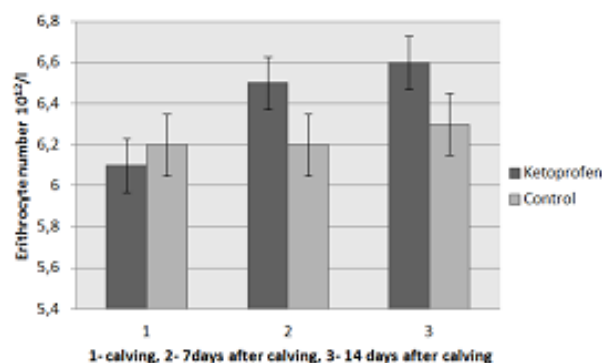


Figure 3. Effect of ketoprofen on erythrocyte concentration in cows in early lactation.

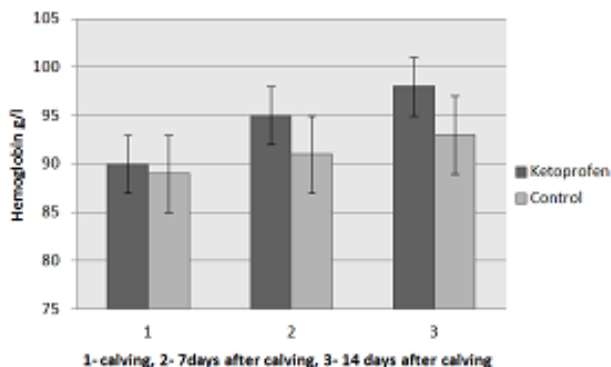


Figure 4. Effect of ketoprofen on hemoglobin concentration in cows in early lactation.

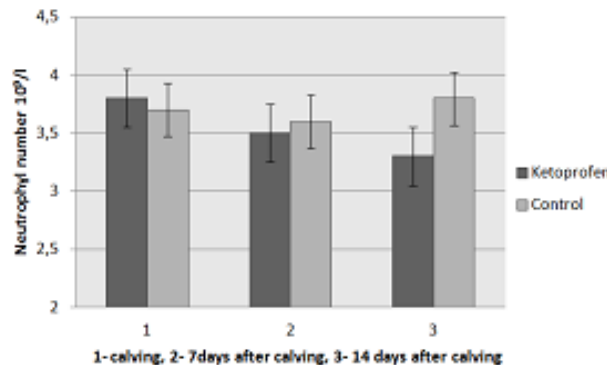


Figure 5. Effect of ketoprofen on the number of neutrophils in cows in early lactation.

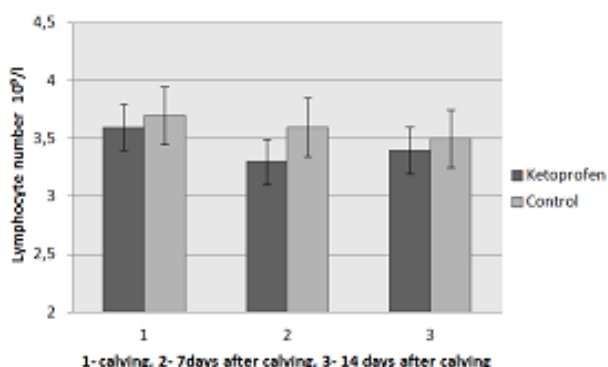


Figure 6. Effect of ketoprofen on the number of lymphocytes in cows in early lactation.

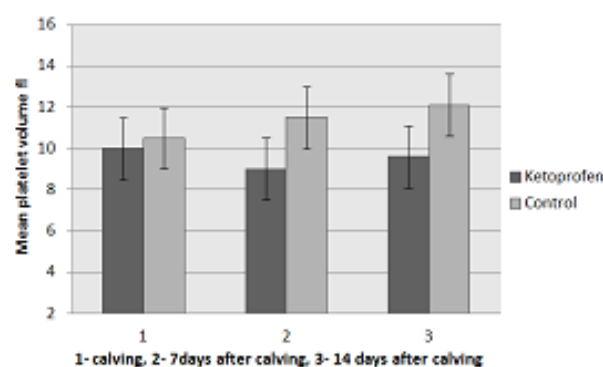


Figure 7. Effect of ketoprofen on the mean volume of platelets in cows in early lactation.

DISCUSSION

Studies in human medicine demonstrated that high concentrations of NEFA induce low-grade inflammation and affect immune function [15,21]. In dairy cows, excessive lipid mobilization from adipose tissue is linked with greater incidences of health problems [12]. It is well known that dairy cows with excessive adiposity manifest a low-grade inflammation [16].

Some researchers demonstrated that elevated NEFA concentrations present positive risk factors for many proinflammatory diseases in dairy cows [5,10,25]. Also, during the transition period when NEFA concentration increase, dairy cows experience immune dysfunction that enhances their susceptibility to disease [3,11,23,25]. This suggests that perhaps inflammation underlies metabolic disturbances in obese dairy cows.

In our current study, the increase of NEFA and BHB after calving were significantly lower in ketoprofen treated cows than those of control. These changes confirm a lower adipose tissue mobilization in cows treated with NSAIDs and are in accordance with results of other researchers [29]. Determined hematological parameters and values of NEFA and BHB are in correlation. The intensity of these connection decreases in ketoprofen treated cows.

In one study administration of the NSAID for the first 7 days of lactation showed that inflammation-associated pathways are involved in homeostatic adaptations to lactation [13]. Also, examining the effects of ketoprofen administration in dairy cows it was concluded that ketoprofen significantly improved recovery in clinical mastitis indicating that ketoprofen did suppress inflammation [12,26].

Changes in concentration of lipids in plasma associated with lipid mobilization could affect leukocyte activity and increase incidence to disease [9,11]. Cows that have excessive lipid mobilization and ketogenesis as well as reduced concentrations of glucose have a significantly higher ratio of inflammatory mediators such as neutrophils and lymphocytes what have been reported in previous studies [3,23]. Contrary to this findings, in current study in cows treated with ketoprofen there is decrease in concentrations of neutrophils and lymphocytes. It potentially could be linked with anti inflammatory effects of ketoprofen [2].

Concentration of red blood cell and hemoglobin in the peripartal period decrease [3,23], also as a result of inflammation [24] while these concentration increases in cows treated with NSAID [29] what matches with our findings.

Platelets play a complex role in hemostasis and thrombosis and in other physiological or pathological processes including inflammation, malignancy and the immune response [22]. In many inflammatory conditions, values of mean platelets volume is increased, such as in animals affected with acute peritonitis [18]. There is a decrease in mean volume of platelets in ketoprofen treated cows and this, in part, explains the anti-inflammatory activity of ketoprofen.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, presented results indicate strong relationship between the concentration of NEFA, as well as BHB and hematological parameters. The dependence of hematological parameters of intensity of lipid mobilization and ketogenesis was significantly lower in cows treated with ketoprofen immediately after calving.

MANUFACTURERS

¹Becton Dickinson and Company. Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA.

²BD Plymouth. Plymouth, UK.

³Drew Scientific Ltd. Cumbria, UK.

⁴Randox Laboratories Ltd. London, UK.

⁵Rayto Electronics Inc. Shenzhen, China.

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