Abstract

Brucellosis in ovine is due to Brucella ovis, B. melitensis, and B. abortus. In male sheep these bacteria might induce epididymitis and orchitis, and in female the disease is present and might induce abortion in late gestation. There are some other bacteria such as Actinobacillus seminis and Histophilus ovis which may cause the same clinical signs. The goal of this research was to establish the frequency of isolation of B. ovis and/or A. seminis in male sheep with clinical diagnosis of epididymitis. Six different flocks from the states of Mexico, Hidalgo and México City were used in the study. Serum samples from 111 males, Semen and/or testis samples from 17 rams were collected. The clinical diagnosis was establish by direct observation and palpation. The serologic tests used were: the card test (3% cc) for B. melitensis and B. abortus. For B. ovis an indirect ELISA and double immunodiffusion (IDD) tests were performed, the antigen used was a hot saline extraction. For A. seminis the IDD test with a soluble antigen was used. This antigen was obtained by sonication. Bacteriological studies were performed on semen and tissue samples. Isolated bacteriae were identified according to routine techniques. The disease was diagnosed in all the 6 flocks studied. There were 10 (9.0%) positive animals to B. ovis by the IDD test With the indirect ELISA 25 (22.5%) sera were positive. Serological results for smooth Brucella were 20 (18%) positive. Three out of the 6 flocks were positive to A. seminis from those 10 (9.0%) sera were positive to IDD. Bacteriological studies resulted in the isolation of B. ovis from testis in two occasions, and two isolates of A. seminis from semen samples.

Keywords

OVINE, EPIDIDYMITIS, BRUCELLA OVIS, ACTINOBACILLUS SEMINIS, SEROLOGIC STUDIES.