



Effect of ultrasound on protoscoleces of *Echinococcus granulosus* in vitro and in vivo

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Abstract

The current study was designed to investigate the effect of ultrasound on the protoscoleces of *Echinococcus granulosus* by enforcing steady numeral of frequencies during a certain interval (20000 pulse/s) (1.8 w/cm²), using exposure time 30,20,15,12,10 and 5s, individually and respectively. Consequently, six albino mice groups were immunized against cystic echinococcosis, which injected with exposed protoscoleces, to acquire specific cell-mediated immunity, called delayed type-hypersensitivity (DTH) which assessment by measurement the foot pad density. The results displayed significant excess ($P \leq 0.001$) of DTH by increase of foot pad thickness in injected groups. The results showed maximum thickness of 1.54 mm, 1.4mm, 0.9 mm. after 3h, 24h, and 48h post - injection, respectively, that compared with the thickness of control group 1.072, 0.638, 0.328 mm, respectively, during five months of experiment. The present research exhibited the action of ultrasonication technique on the viability of *Echinococcus granulosus* protoscoleces *in vitro*. Conclusion, Ultrasound frequencies used in the present study could be have consequential impact on the cellular immunity in albino mice.

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Introduction

Cystic echinococcosis is chronic and complicated disease in humans and animals, and it leads to many health problems and economic losses in developing countries resulting from the costs of diagnosis, medical treatment and resulting disabilities in some cases in human (1,2). Cystic echinococcosis is endemic in the Mediterranean, Middle East, eastern European, Eastern Africa, Australia, and China (3). The life cycle of the *Echinococcus granulosus* includes two hosts, definitive host includes carnivores such as the canidae and felidae families such as dogs, foxes and hyenas, and intermediate host, includes herbivores - such as -sheep, buffalo, camels, pigs, and rodents and human as accidental host (4,5). Diagnosis of cystic echinococcosis is based on imaging techniques, like ultrasound as a major tool for classification of hydatid cysts (6). Whereas serological methods were used for confirmation only (7). Ultrasound is a physical and therapeutic method as non-

ionizing radiation in the form of mechanical sound waves to the tissues to raise the temperature. Since 1970 ultrasound has been used to detect a variety of diseases. High intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) was also used initially to treat cancer like prostate tumors, brain diseases such as Parkinson's disease, treatment of uterine fibroids and prostate tumors (8-10). Ultrasound has also been used extensively in medical diagnosis and increasingly for therapeutic purposes as it has been applied in lithotripsy to destroy kidney stones and as a surgical tool to remove tumor tissue and as a tool for drug delivery (11). Ultrasound has been used in imaging and revolutionized the treatment of cystic, echinococcosis, and ultrasound is preferred because it is a non-invasive technique and because of the stages of development of the cysts, in detail, as well as its ability to indicate the sites of the, cysts, their number, size and stages of development, also to guide the treatment through the skin (12,13). Eradication by High intensity focused ultrasound has shown efficacy in uncomplicated

cases for patients with alveolar cyst disease in the liver, as it has shown efficacy in protoscoleces and laminar component of the lamellar and germinal layers of cystic larvae of alveolar parasites causing the death of morphogenic cells that are responsible for necrosis liver biopsy results after eradication confirmed the destructive effect of protoscoleces and cellular components in the germinal layer of alveolar cysts in the larval stages. High-intensity ultrasound is a promising treatment for alveolar echinococcosis (10).

The aim of the study is to demonstrate the influence of ultrasound on the cell-mediated immunity represented by delayed type hypersensitivity in mice infested with secondary cystic echinococcosis.

Materials and methods

Echinococcosis protoscoleces isolation

Protoscoleces were obtained and isolated from hydatid cysts in the livers of infected sheep in Mosul city according to Smyth (14). The hydatid cysts were sterilized by alcoholic iodine 1%, hydatid cyst fluid was withdrawn by 10 ml medical syringe, washed, the cyst fluid with protoscoleces were washed by Phosphate Buffer Saline PBS pH 7.2 and centrifuged 3000 r/m three times, with the addition of Penicillin 2000 IU and Streptomycin 1 gm/L during the second stage centrifugation, after the third stage the supernatant was withdrawn, PBS was added to the sterilized protoscoleces sediment, viability was estimated by adding 20 µl of eosin 0.1% to the same size of protoscoleces on the slide, then tested for viability by light microscope, for 100% fertility, the light green protoscoleces with flame cells are viable, the red ones are dead (14).

Exposure to ultrasound

Ultrasound machine type (omni, United Kingdom) was used for exposure all the samples to same frequency 20000 pulse (1.8w/cm²). To determine the effect of ultrasound on the vitality of protoscoleces *in vitro*, 2000 protoscoleces/ml of 100% vitality were put in the ultrasound device, with the ice around the sample, the samples were exposed for 30, 20, 15, 12, 10, 5 second, the post exposure vitality was 0, 17, 34, 50, 80, 90% respectively.

Mice inoculation

A total of Thirty-five male swiss mice type *Mus musculus* BBALB/c were used in the present study. All the mice were placed in suitable laboratory conditions at a temperature 25±2, they were divided into 7 groups (5 mice per group), six groups were injected with protoscoleces exposed to ultrasound waves, while the seventh group was injected with non-exposed protoscoleces as a control group. Groups from 1-7 were injected with 2000 protoscoleces of different vitality 0, 17, 34, 50, 10, 90, 100% respectively.

Antigen preparation and injection

Antigen of protoscoleces was prepared as described (15), and the antigen protein was assessed as described (16). Delayed type hypersensitivity was measured according to Ali Khan (17), as following: 1 ml of the antigen (143 microgram) was injected into the right footpad of the mouse, the left footpad was injected with the same volume of Phosphate buffer saline PBS, the thickness of the foot pad was measured by Vernier after 3, 24, 48 hour after antigen injection.

The difference between the readings represents delayed type hypersensitivity. Each group was injected once with the antigen at the end of each experiment, 2, 3, 4, 5 months post infection. Delayed type hypersensitivity was assessed in all groups during the period: 2, 3, 4, 5 months post infection with exposed protoscoleces, in addition to the control not exposed group.

Statistical analysis

All the data were analyzed according to Complete Randomized Analysis, to explain the effects of durations and exposures, the differences between the averages of each factor and the compatibility between the two factors levels were tested by Duncan's multiple test, Statistical Analysis System (SAS version 9) was applied for data analysis and tests (18).

Results

From the results ultrasound has significant effect on the protoscoleces which represented by the thickness of the foot pad after 3h, 24h, 48h post antigen injection in mice infected with exposed protoscoleces compared with control group (Table 1).

Multiple-range test revealed significant differences in six treated groups recorded highest footpad thickness after 3h post antigen injection, 1.54 mm at 20s exposure, followed by 1.5 mm at 30s, 1.31 mm at 15s, 1.22 mm at 5s, 1.2 mm at 12s and 1.18 mm at 10s, after five months of infection, compared with the control group 1.072mm (Table 2).

Duncan's multiple-range test revealed significant differences in all treated mice after 24h post antigen injection. The highest thickness of the foot pad was 1.4 mm at 10s exposure for five months' post infection, followed by 1.106 mm at 5s, 1.054 mm at 15s, 1.034 mm at 12s, 1.02 mm at 30s, 0.964 mm, respectively, in comparison with control group 0.638 mm (Table 3).

Result showed significant differences in experimental exposed animals, the highest foot pad thickness was 0.9 mm at 10s, followed by 0.83mm at 5s, 0.68mm at 30s, 0.6334mm at 12s, 0.604mm at 20s, and 0.524mm at 15 s, respectively, after five months of injury, when compared with the control group 0.328mm (Table 4).

Table 1: Statistic of the footpad thickness after 3h, 24h and 48h post antigen injection in mice injected with protoscoleces

Degrees of difference	df	3h			24h			48h		
		Sum	Average	F	Sum	Average	F	Sum	Average	F
Periods	3	0.73603643	0.2453**	4.48	1.3173	0.4391**	9.33	1.7737	0.5912**	27.66
Treatment	6	1.08434	0.1807**	3.30	1.31336	0.2188**	4.65	0.7060	0.1176**	5.50
Periods x treatment	18	0.94224857	0.0523	0.96	1.3357	0.0742	1.58	0.9516	0.0528**	2.47
Experimental error	112	6.12976	0.0547		5.2709	0.0470		2.3943	0.0213	

*significant of $P \leq 0.01$ **significant of $P \leq 0.05$.

Table 2: Footpad thickness 3 hours post antigen injection in mice injected with protoscoleces exposed to ultrasound

Exposure	2	3	4	5	Average treatment
Control	1.096 ^{de}	1.062 ^{de}	1.07 ^{de}	1.072 ^{de}	1.075 ^c
30s	1.34 ^{abcd}	1.178 ^{bcde}	1.37 ^{abcd}	1.5 ^{ab}	1.347 ^a
20s	1.32 ^{abcd}	1.154 ^{bcd}	1.258 ^{abcde}	1.54 ^a	1.318 ^a
15s	1.204 ^{abcde}	1.222 ^{abcde}	1.162 ^{bcde}	1.31 ^{abcd}	1.2245 ^{abc}
12s	1.372 ^{abcd}	1.132 ^{cde}	1.13 ^{cde}	1.2 ^{abcde}	1.2085 ^{abc}
10s	1.294 ^{abcde}	1.14 ^{bcde}	0.94 ^e	1.18 ^{abcde}	1.14 ^{bc}
5s	1.486 ^{abc}	1.22 ^{abcde}	1.08 ^{de}	1.22 ^{abcde}	1.2515 ^{ab}
Average	1.3017 ^a	1.5829 ^b	1.14429 ^b	1.28971 ^a	

Identical letters were not considerable variation. Diverse letters were considerable variation.

Table 3: Footpad thickness 24-hour post antigen injection in mice injected with protoscoleces

Exposure	2	3	4	5	Average treatment
Control	0.878 ^{nbcddefg}	0.676 ^{fg}	0.614 ^g	0.638 ^{fg}	0.7015 ^b
30s	0.84 ^{bcdefg}	0.902 ^{bcdefg}	1.1 ^b	1.02 ^{bcde}	0.9655 ^a
20s	0.866 ^{bcdefg}	0.76 ^{cdefg}	1.08 ^{bc}	0.964 ^{bcdef}	0.9175 ^a
15s	0.952 ^{bcdef}	0.808 ^{bcdefg}	1.102 ^b	1.054 ^{bcd}	0.979 ^a
12s	0.979 ^a	0.87 ^{bcdefg}	1.032 ^{bcde}	1.034 ^{bcde}	0.962 ^a
10s	0.934 ^{bcdfg}	0.716 ^{efg}	1.04 ^{bcde}	1.4 ^a	1.0225 ^a
5s	0.906 ^{bcdefg}	0.74 ^{defg}	1.012 ^{bcde}	1.106 ^b	0.941 ^a
Average	0.89829 ^b	0.78171 ^c	0.99714 ^{ab}	1.03086 ^a	

Identical letters were not considerable variation. Diverse letters were considerable variation.

Table 4: Footpad thickness 48-hour post antigen injection in mice injected with protoscoleces

Exposure	2	3	4	5	Average treatment
Control	0.328 ^{hij}	0.296 ^j	0.312 ^{ij}	0.328 ^{hij}	0.329 ^c
30s	0.44 ^{defghij}	0.276 ^j	0.406 ^{efghij}	0.68 ^{bc}	0.4505 ^b
20s	0.424 ^{defghij}	0.444 ^{defghij}	0.39 ^{efghij}	0.604 ^{cde}	0.4655 ^b
15s	0.602 ^{cdef}	0.296 ^j	0.546 ^{cdefgh}	0.524 ^{cdefghi}	0.492 ^{ab}
12s	0.382 ^{efghij}	0.342 ^{ghij}	0.5 ^{cdefghij}	0.6334 ^{cd}	0.46435 ^b
10s	0.53 ^{cdefghi}	0.352 ^{ghi}	0.53 ^{cdefghi}	0.9 ^a	0.578 ^a
5s	0.428 ^{defghij}	0.28 ^j	0.556 ^{cdefg}	0.83 ^{ab}	0.5235 ^{ab}
Average	0.45514 ^b	0.32657 ^c	0.46286 ^b	0.64277 ^a	

Identical letters were not considerable variation. Diverse letters were considerable variation.

Discussion

Delayed-type hypersensitivity (DTH) is a T-cell mediated inflammatory response in which the stimulation of antigen-specific effector T cells leads to macrophage

activation and localized inflammation and edema within tissues. This effector T cell response is a normal component of adaptive immunity, and essential for the control of intracellular and other pathogens. Subsequent exposure of the sensitized individual to the exogenous antigen, either

injected intradermal or applied to the epidermis, results in the recruitment of antigen specific T cells to the site and the development of local inflammatory response over 24-72 hours (19).

If the foreign antigen persists in the tissues, chronic activation of T cells and macrophages may lead to granuloma formation and tissue damage. IV hypersensitivity reflects the presence of antigen specific CD4 T cells and is associated with protective immunity against intracellular and other pathogens. According to the Coombs and Gell classification, type IV or DTH reactions take more than 12 hours to develop and involve cell-mediated immune reactions rather than antibody responses to antigen. Some other hypersensitivity reactions may straddle this definition with a rapid-antibody-mediated phase, and a later cell-mediated phase. For example, the phase IgE-mediated reaction may peak 12-24 hours after contact with an allergen, and cells such as helper T (TH2) cells and eosinophils, contribute of the inflammation as well as IgE (20).

The results of the cell-mediated immunity appeared by DTH of foot pad in the mice showed an increase in the thickness of the footpad thickness for 3 h after injection in animals injected with exposed protoscolecocysts compared to unexposed mice and began to decline 24 h and continued to decrease 48 h after insertion by the antigen, the increased thickness of the footpad is referred to the capability of ultrasound to induce cell mediated immunity, which is represented by swelling of the footpad, this result is in agreement with Ali and Khethr (21), when studied the effect of ultrasound on the cell-mediated immunity in rats inoculated with cysts of *Giardia lamblia*, and explained the significant differences between treated and non-treated rats.

The most distinctive feature of delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions is the increase of T-helper cells TH2 in tissues followed by increase in eosinophils. These reactions induce secretion of chemicals stimulant for the bounding with the epithelial cells that are significant for eosinophils migration. This indicates the vital role of TH2 and INF- γ in hypersensitivity reactions (20). The swelling produced from these reactions is referred to infiltration of macrophages, neutrophils, lymphocytes and monocytes during the histological test of the footpad. Previous studies explained that the cause of hypersensitivity is the stimulation of T-lymphocytes to produce cytokines, which in turn mediate a group of inflammatory reactions (19,20). Yassen (22), Ali and Salim (23) were used protoscolecocysts of *Echinococcus granulosus* exposed to electric current, and they found significant differences between treated and non-treated mice. Furthermore, Ali and Mohammed (24) tested the effect of Laser radiation on the cellular immunity in mice infected with hydatidosis, and found that the laser radiation boosted delayed-type hypersensitivity in treated animals.

Cell Mediated Immunity represented by swelling of the foot pad resulting in edema and a series of inflammations due to T helper cells that are responsible for cellular immune responses, which is the result of cytokines secreted from mononuclear cells, especially phagocytic and T cells, which were activated when antigen injected. Over time, depletion of T cells occurs, and this is associated with a decrease in the thickness of the foot pad. Because of reduced antigen stimulation of lymphocyte transformation in treated mice (25).

Conclusion

It may well be concluded that ultrasound may play a significant role on specific cellular immunity represented by delayed-type hypersensitivity in mice infected with hydatid disease, and may be used as a future alternative therapy for treatment of hydatidosis.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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تأثير الموجات فوق الصوتية على الرؤيسات الأولية للمشوكة الحبيبية في المختبر وداخل الجسم

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الخلاصة

صممت الدراسة الحالية لإظهار تأثير الموجات فوق الصوتية على عيشية الرؤيسات الأولية لدودة المشوكة الحبيبية في المختبر عن طريق تردد ثابت لكل المعاملات ٢٠٠,٠٠٠ نبضة / ثانية (١,٨ واط/سم^٢) وبأوقات مختلفة ٥، ١٠، ١٢، ١٥، ٢٠ و ٣٠ ثانية، ومن ثم استخدامه في تمنيع الفئران البيض ضد الإصابة بداء المشوكات الكيسي ومقارنتها بالمجموعة الضابطة (غير المعرضة للأمواج فوق الصوتية)، لتحديد الفروقات بين المجموعتين بواسطة قياس التفاعل المناعي المكتسب (الاستجابة المناعية المتخصصة الخلوية) المتمثلة باختبار فرط الحساسية المتأخر عن طريق تقدير سمك وسادة القدم. أظهرت نتائج الدراسة زيادة معنوية >0.001 في المناعة الخلوية المتمثلة بارتفاع سمك وسادة القدم، بلغ أقصاه ١,٥٤ ملم، ١,٤ ملم و ٠,٩ ملم بعد ٣ و ٢٤ و ٤٨ ساعة (من حقن المستضد)، على التوالي، مقارنة مع سمك وسادة القدم للمجموعة الضابطة غير المعرضة ١,٠٧٢، ٠,٦٣٨ و ٠,٣٢٨ ملم، على التوالي، بعد خمسة أشهر من الإصابة. أظهرت الدراسة الحالية تأثير الموجات فوق الصوتية في حيوية الرؤيسات الحيوية للمشوكة الحبيبية خارج الجسم. الاستنتاج، ربما يكون للموجات فوق الصوتية تأثيراً معنوياً على المناعة الخلوية في الفئران البيض.