

Turkish Journal of Agriculture - Food Science and Technology

Available online, ISSN: 2148-127X | www.agrifoodscience.com | Turkish Science and Technology Publishing (TURSTEP)

Changes in Serum Mineral Composition During Poxvirus Infection in Sheep and Their Lambs

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ARTICLE INFO

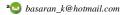
ABSTRACT

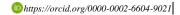
Research Article

Received: 15/07/2020 Accepted: 10/08/2020

Keywords: Sheep Poxvirus Infection Serum Mineral

Minerals have crucial roles in terms of vital function in the organism including hormones, enzymes, cell formation etc. Oxidative stress and related hormones, regarding infectious diseases, affect all functions of body including mineral taking, metabolism and excretion. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of the pox disease on blood minerals composition of sheep and lambs. This study was conducted on 20 healthy sheep, 20 poxvirus infected sheep and their lambs (Totally 80 subjects). One-shot blood samples from sheep and lambs were collected and serums were separated immediately. Serum mineral levels were analysed in the atomic absorption spectrophotometer. In general, the level of Cu in infected animals was higher than in healthy ones. Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels of healthy animals were found higher than infected subjects. The difference between healthy and infected animal groups for serum Ca and K levels was not significant. Positive correlations were found between serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels. However, a negative correlation was found between Cu-Zn and Cu-Fe pairs. Consequently, Cu, Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels in serum, which are vital for animal organisms, showed significant changes in sheep and their lambs during poxvirus infection. To rapid healing or prevention of the diseases, mineral disorders must be corrected urgently.







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Introduction

Pox disease is an acute viral disease and seen in many animal species except dogs. It named "sheeppox" in sheep and characterized by papules, vesicles, macules, pustules and crusting on skin and mucosa. The lesions are seen on mucosa of digestive, respiratory and urogenital system and poor skin sections such as around lips, eyelids and ears and on axillar, inguinal, perineal and sub-tail regions. Pyrexia, lethargy, depression, anorexia, conjunctivitis, rhinitis, lacrimation, nasal discharge are other principal symptoms of sheeppox. The virus is usually transmitted through the skin and inhalation. However, contamination may also be caused by insect or acarus biting. Incubation period of it is 4-8 days. This infection sometimes can be fatal especially in young lambs (Diallo and Viljoen, 2007; Haller et al., 2014; Mahmoud and Khafagi, 2016; Venkatesan et al.,

At that time, it is reported that serological diagnostic techniques are successfully used for detection of antibody created by the organism against sheeppox virus like other virus detection methods (Balinsky et al., 2008; Dashprakash et al., 2019; Haegeman et al., 2019)

It is well known that pox disease in general leads to physiological (oxidative) stress. Hereby, it affects metabolism and excretion of animals (Chirase et al., 1991; B Karademir, 2017; Machado et al., 2013; Orr et al., 1990; Paksoy, 2015). Stress causes an increase in the release of stress hormones, including adrenal hormones which can trigger numerous changes in the organism (Brunson et al., 2001; Caldji et al., 2000; Fenoglio et al., 2006; Yi and Baram, 1994).

Minerals are building blocks of all the tissues in the organism and found in all body fluids (extracellular, intracellular and intercellular) as electrolytes (Basaran Karademir, 2017; Karademir and Yılmaz, 2018). They have several critical functions in animal and human organisms including oxidative and anti-oxidative metabolism, immune system, energy metabolism, redox reactions, reproductive functions, growth etc. (Khan et al., 2014; Machado et al., 2013; Obara et al., 2008; Yasui et al., 2014). They also influence all the biochemical events in the organism by entering into the structure of many enzymes and hormones (Bullen et al., 2005; Ganz and Nemeth, 2006; Karademir, 2006; Paksoy, 2015). They cannot be synthesized in the organism so they have to be taken from outside with food and water (McDowell, 1992).

There are a number of mechanisms involved in the absorption, evaluation and elimination of the minerals in the body. It is known that oxidative stress cause decline of some serum mineral levels based on usage of metalloenzymes. Fluctuations in serum mineral levels can cause a large number of functional disorders in the organism (Bicalho et al., 2014; Bullen et al., 2005; Ganz and Nemeth, 2006; Karademir, 2006; Paksoy, 2015).

Knowing the fluctuation of mineral concentration during pox diseases gives important information about the prognosis of the disease. Elimination of possible fluctuations may have positive effects on the course of the disease.

Due to the above reasons, in this study, it was aimed to investigate the effect of the stress caused by "Sheeppox disease" on mineral concentration.

Materials and Methods

Ethical Approval

This study was conducted pursuant to the approval of the Local Ethics Board for Animal Experiments of Kafkas University (KAÜ-HADYEK, Approval number: 2014/046) and care was taken to comply with the 3R concept.

Experimental Animals

This research was carried out between January 2015 and January 2016. As a study subject, 40 lamb-born sheep (2-6 years old) and their 40 lambs (1-5 months old) were used (Totally 80 subjects). Poxvirus infection suspected sheep farms were visited. External clinic examinations and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test for sheeppox virus (Dashprakash et al., 2019; Haegeman et al., 2019) (abbexa® Cambirdge-UK) were performed on suspected animals. Seropositive sheep and their lambs, having poxvirus exanthema (around lips, eyelids and ears, and skin of inguinal, perineal and sub-tail regions) (from erythema to scabs) and other poxvirus infection signs, accepted as infected with sheep-poxvirus. Other signs of these infections were pyrexia, lethargy, loss of appetite, inflammation of the mucous membranes of the eyes and nose after these ocular and nasal discharge, salivation, acute respiratory distress, enlargement of superficial lymph nodes etc. (Diallo and Viljoen, 2007; Haller et al., 2014; Mahmoud and Khafagi, 2016; Venkatesan et al., 2014). Some lambs died approximately 10-15 days after the start of clinical symptoms of diseases. For this investigation, 20 sheep and their lambs were randomly selected from farm with poxvirus infection. 20 healthy sheep and their 20 lambs were kept as control groups. The control animals had similar breeding conditions as other animals with poxvirus infection.

Blood collections and storage: Blood samples were collected from the jugular vein into 8.5 ml vacuumed dry tubes (BD Vakutainer®, Tıpkimsan, Turkey). Serum was separated from blood immediately (3500 rpm, 15 min). The serum samples were stored at -20°C up to mineral analyses.

Laboratory Analyses and Chemicals

The serum Cu, Zn, Fe, Mg, Ca, K and Na levels were determined by means of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) equipped with flame system (Thermo Elemental S4® - Thermo Electron Corporation, Great Britain). Deionized distilled water was used for all dilutions. Standard solutions of the minerals used for AAS were obtained from companies Fluka Chemie GmbH Switzerland (Cu: 61147, Zn: 96457, Mg: 63046, Ca: 21049, K: 60032, Na: 71173) and Merck KgaA, Germany (Fe: 119781). All chemicals were analytical grade.

For determination of Sheeppox virus antibody form suspected subjects' serum, commercial ELISA kids (abbexa®) were used (abbexa Ltd. Cambirdge-UK) according to prospectus information.

Device Measurement Reliability

In order to confirm the accuracy of the measurements performed with this device, after every 5 sample measurements, standard solutions with known concentrations were measured. These data were used for the calculation of the coefficient of variation (CV). The CVs determined for each mineral were as follows: Cu: 5,61%, Zn: 4,42%, Fe: 4,67%, Mg: 1,83%, Ca: 2,73%, K: 3,48% and Na: 2,86% (Karademir, 2011, 2010).

Glutaraldehyde Test (GA)

To determine inflammation degree in sheep and lambs, GA was performed to all animals. The GA test solution mixed with fresh blood in the ration of 1/1. Coagulation time checked per 15 seconds by means of turning upsidedown of tubes. Full clotting time was recorded as the final test time. In the case of no coagulation in 15 minutes, GA test result accepted as negative and test time was recorded as 16 minutes. As a GA test solution, following mixture was used (Karademir, 2006; Karademir and Atalan, 2003);

- 5.6 ml Glutaraldehyde mean solution (Merck S30895 027)
- 200 mg Disodium Etilendiamin tetra asetic acid (Merck 143517)
- 900 mg Sodium Chloride (Merck 106404)
- 94.4 ml Distilated water

Statistical Analysis

The normality test (Shapiro-Wilk test) results demonstrated that the data showed a normal distribution (p>0.05) (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2013). Accordingly, Independent-Samples T-test as a parametric test was performed for comparison of groups' data. Results were expressed as Mean \pm SEM (SEM: Standard Error Mean). Correlation test was used to investigate the relationship among body temperature, GA time and serum mineral levels. A regression analysis was conducted to investigate the effect of inflammation (GA and temperature) on serum mineral levels.

Results

In infected groups, serum Cu levels (P<0.05) (Figure 1) and temperature findings (P<0.001) (Table 1-3) increased compared to healthy groups. GA results (P<0.001) (Table 1-3), serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels (P<0.01) (Figure 2-

5) of infected animals were decreased compered to healthy ones (P<0.05). Serum Ca and K levels of poxvirus infected animals were higher than healthy groups, but these increased results had no statistical significance (P>0.05).

The existence of a linear relationship between parameters was investigated with the correlation test. Correlation test and their statistical analyses results were given in table 4. Relationships between mineral levels with temperature and GA had been found statistical importance except Serum K. There were also significant correlations between some other mineral outcome pairs (Table 4). Relationships between mineral levels with temperature and GA had been found statistical importance except Serum K.

Temperature and GA results are closely related to inflammation on the body. Therefore, regression analyses was performed to reveal how changed serum mineral concentration according to change of these parameters. The regression equations of minerals as to GA and rectal temperature and their statistical evaluation was presented in Table 5.

Serum Cu, Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels investigated were illustrated in Figure 1 - 5. The serum Cu levels increased in infected animals as to healthy ones (Figure 1).

The serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels decreased in animals with poxvirus according to healthy groups (Figure 2, 3, 4 and 5).

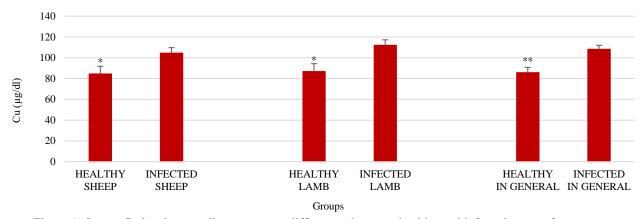


Figure 1. Serum Cu levels according to groups, differences between healthy and infected groups for ages were significant as *: P< 0.05, **: P<0.01, Mean±SEM

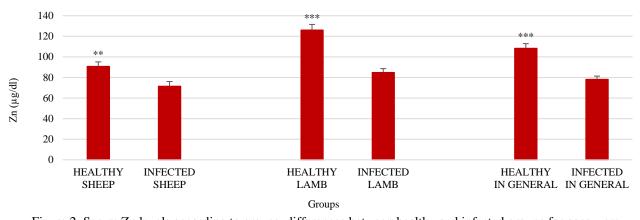


Figure 2. Serum Zn levels according to groups, differences between healthy and infected groups for ages were significant as **: P<0.01, ***: P<0.001, Mean±SEM

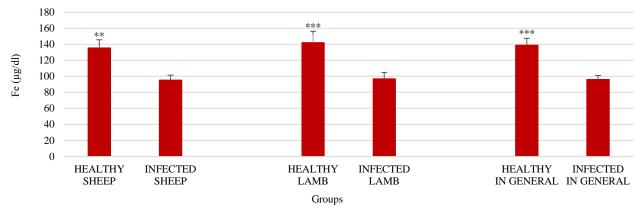


Figure 3. Serum Fe levels according to groups, differences between healthy and infected groups for ages were significant as **: P<0.01, ***: P<0.001, Mean±SEM

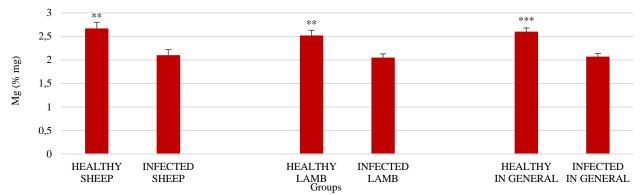


Figure 4. Serum Mg levels according to groups, differences between healthy and infected groups for ages were significant as **: P<0.01, ***: P<0.001, Mean±SEM

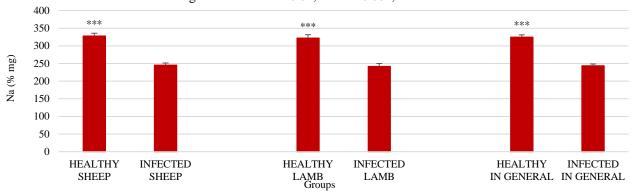


Figure 5. Serum Na levels according to groups, differences between healthy and infected groups for ages were significant as ***: P<0.001, Mean±SEM

Table 1. Serum Ca and K levels, body temperature and Glutaraldehyde (GA) time of healthy and poxvirus infected sheep groups Mean±SEM

	Healthy Sheep (n=20)	Infected Sheep (n=20)	Significance (P values)
Ca (%mg)	10.07±0.53	10.96±0.54	0.246
K (%mg)	28.37±1.65	29.06±1.77	0.777
Temperature (°C)	39.08±0.10	40.15±0.13	0.000
GA (min)	16.00 ± 0.00	8.65 ± 0.53	0.000

Table 2. Serum Ca and K levels, body temperature and GA time of healthy and poxvirus infected lamp groups Mean±SEM

	Healthy Lamb (n=20)	Infected Lamb (n=20)	Significance (P values)
Ca (% mg)	11.60±0.80	12.88±0.86	0.280
K (%mg)	32.32±1.38	33.02 ± 1.42	0.727
Temperature (°C)	39.66±0.09	41.36 ± 0.06	0.000
GA (min)	16.00±0.00	4.88 ± 0.53	0.000

	Healthy in General (n=40)	Infected in General (n=40)	Significance (P values)
Ca (% mg)	10.83±0.49	11.92±0.53	0.133
K (%mg)	30.35±1.11	31.04 ± 1.16	0.667
Temperature (°C)	39.37±0.08	40.75 ± 0.12	0.000
GA (min)	16.00 ± 0.00	6.76 ± 0.48	0.000

Table 4. Pearson Correlation test results (r) between body temperature, GA time and serum mineral concentrations pairs and their statistical evaluations

N:20	Temperature	GA	Cu	Zn	Fe	Mg	Ca	K
GA	-0.785***							
Cu	0.287**	-0.338**						
Zn	-0.285**	0.429***	-0.407***					
Fe	-0.344**	0.406***	-0.368**	0.271*				
Mg	-0.481***	0.429***	-0.165	0.320**	0.229*			
Ca	0.241*	-0.236*	0.088	0.119	-0.078	0.080		
K	0.087	-0.106	0.016	0.189	-0.171	0.214	0.308**	
Na	-0.586***	0.701***	-0.101	0.403***	0.307**	0.524***	0.155	0.187

^{*:} P<0.05, **: P<0.01, ***: P<0.001

Table 5. Regression equations of minerals according to GA time and rectal body temperatures

Response	Predictors	Regression	Adjusted	Significance
		Equations	R square (%)	(P values)
Cu		Cu = 41 + 1.89 * Temp + 1.76 * GA	9.2	0.009
Zn		Zn = -105 + 4.09 * Temp + 2.98 * GA	17.0	0.000
Fe		Fe = 213 - 3.38 * Temp + 3.44 * GA	14.5	0.001
Mg	GA, Temp	Mg = 11.6 - 0.236 * Temp + 0.0155 * GA	21.9	0.000
Ca		Ca = -7.7 + 0.498 * Temp - 0.077 * GA	3.9	0.080
K		K = 29.4 + 0.07 * Temp - 0.138 * GA	0.0	0.644
Na		Na = 419 - 5.26 * Temp + 6.67 * GA	49.5	0.000

According to statistical comparison of healthy sheep and their lamb, serum Zn, Ca and rectal temperature values of lambs were greater than their mothers (P<0.001).

In the infected herd with poxvirus, serum Zn level (P<0.05), rectal temperature and GA results (P<0.001) of lambs were also higher than their mothers.

There were no statistical differences between other parameters for these mentioned two groups above (in healthy and infected groups) (P>0.05).

Discussion

Minerals are essential for overall metabolism including immune response, cell replication, skeletal development, production, and reproductive performance etc. (Engle, 2001; Khan et al., 2014; Machado et al., 2013; Obara et al., 2008; Yasui et al., 2014). Herewith, in this study, serum mineral (Zn, Cu, Fe, Mg, Ca, K and Na) changes of sheep and their lambs infected with "sheeppox virus" were investigated.

It is known that generally diseases cause physiological (oxidative) stress on the body (Chirase et al., 1991; B Karademir, 2017; Machado et al., 2013; Orr et al., 1990; Paksoy, 2015). Stress provoke the hormonal activities of hypothalamus, hypophysis and adrenal cortex and after this circumstance, some stress hormones including cortisol and mineralo-corticoids release (Gidener and Arıcı, 2012; Yi and Baram, 1994). Mentioned hormones influence the whole body metabolism including mineral metabolism and fluid-electrolyte balance (Brunson et al., 2001; Caldji et al., 2000).

Cu is an essential trace element and is mainly responsible for erythropoiesis in the body, formation of myelin sheath in the central nervous system, skin and hair pigmentation, cellular respiration (B Karademir, 2017; Kuru et al., 2018). At the same time, Cu is incorporated into the structure of Cu / Zn superoxide dismutase enzyme which is the enzyme of the antioxidative system. Hereby, it has a very effective role in detoxifying oxidative radicals (Karademir, 2010; Obara et al., 2008) and is also known to affect phagocytic and specific immune functions (Obara et al., 2008; Spears and Weiss, 2008). It has been reported in many times that the serum Cu concentration increases in cases of stress originated by diseases (Chirase et al., 1991; Karademir et al., 2009; Orr et al., 1990). Ceruloplasmin, which contains copper in the structure, is known as inflammatory markers (as an acute phase protein) and increases throughout the inflammation process. As a result of this, serum Cu level increases during inflammation. The main task of ceruloplasmin is to scavenges Fe²⁺ and free radicals, which are undesirable product of inflammation (Gruys et al., 2005; Murata et al., 2004). The Cu levels of this investigation presented were similar to the findings of previous studies (Chirase et al., 1991; Karademir et al., 2009; Orr et al., 1990). The serum Cu levels of both infected sheep and infected lambs were significantly higher than healthy groups (P<0.001).

Zn is an essential trace element like Cu and has to be taken from the outside. It has been reported that many hormones (somatotropin, insulin, TSH, LH, FSH, ACTH etc.) and enzymes (carbonic anhydrase, leucine, amino peptidase, alkaline phosphatase, lactate dehydrogenase, ribonuclease etc.) contain Zn (Karademir, 2011; Karademir et al., 2017). It is known that serum Zn level fall in an inflammatory condition originated from disease (Chirase et al., 1991; Karademir et al., 2009, 2011a; B Karademir, 2017; Orr et al., 1990; Tran et al., 2004). It was observed in this study that serum zinc levels were significantly lower in patients than in healthy controls as to previous studies (P<0.001). The following conditions may be considered as reasons for the decrease in serum zinc level; excess consumption of Zn containing enzymes during inflammation for detoxifying of oxidants (Karademir et al., 2010), urinary excretion increase with the effect of mineralocorticoid secretion regarding stress, and increased metabolic activity associated with increased glucocorticoid release, which is a hormone of adrenal gland (Brunson et al., 2001; Caldji et al., 2000; Gidener and Arıcı, 2012).

Fe is an essential trace element like Cu and Zn and involved in a large number of biochemical functions within the whole living organism. These include oxygen transport, energy metabolism, electron transfer and contribution of hemoglobin structure (Uysal, 1999). Fe also a mineral that is also too need for vital requirements of infectious microorganisms. Reduction of free Fe ions in the environment has anti-bacterial effect. In cases of microbial infection, as a kind of defense mechanism, the organism reduces the serum level of Fe and creates an antimicrobial effect (Bullen et al., 2005; Ganz and Nemeth, 2006; Tuna and Ulutaş, 2015; Wessling-Resnick, 2010). For this purpose, the free Fe is converted to haptoglobulin by complexing with hemoglobin. Another task of haptoglobulin is to remove free iron from the medium by transferring it to the liver (Tuna and Ulutaş, 2015). Haptoglobulin is known as an acute phase protein, which is elevated in the inflammatory state and used as biomarker in the diagnosis of diseases (Murata et al., 2004). Another important hormone involved in the removal of free Fe in the environment is hepsidin. This hormone is produced by the liver and immune system cells, and it increases in inflammatory conditions (Ganz and Nemeth, 2006; Wessling-Resnick, 2010). In this investigation serum Fe levels of healthy groups were found significantly higher than poxvirus infected animal groups (P<0.001). This situation of Fe decreasing may be related to defense mechanism of the organism against microorganism of poxvirus (Bullen et al., 2005; Ganz and Nemeth, 2006; Tuna and Ulutaş, 2015; Wessling-Resnick, 2010). From another point of view, it may be due to diuresis and speedy metabolism created by aldosterone and glucocorticoid hormones secreted from the adrenal gland during stress of the disease (Brunson et al., 2001; Caldji et al., 2000; Gidener and Arıcı, 2012).

Mg is the fourth mineral in the organism and the second mineral in the intracellular environment after potassium. It is an essential element required for more than three thousand enzymes to function (Görmüş and Ergene, 2003). Mg also has several duties including regulation of some biochemical reactions and substantial physiological functions such as, nucleic acid metabolism, protein and energy production (Wolf et al., 2007). Again, moderate to high deficiency of Mg can exacerbate inflammatory stress in the course of chronic diseases (Nielsen, 2010). Even so there are many unexplained role of Mg in the body. Mg mainly is absorbed in the small intestine and excreted trough renal pathway (Barbagallo and Dominguez, 2007). There are studies reporting that the Mg level is lowered in case of stress that occurs during the course of various diseases (Chirase et al., 1991; B Karademir, 2017; Karademir et al., 2011a, 2011b, 2009; Saraymen et al., 2003). It was observed that this study Mg findings was similar to findings of previous studies mentioned above. The reason for the decrease in Mg level can be attributed to increased catabolism and increased renal perfusion with the effect of increasing adrenal hormones in the case of stress.

Principal task of Ca in the body is the most important constituent of bone and dental formation. It is also reported to be involved in blood coagulation, muscle contraction, and neural conduction (McDowell, 1992). Different results were reported for serum Ca levels under stressful conditions related to systemic diseases or disorders. It has been reported that serum Ca level decreases in case of some toxicities and respiratory system problems (Chirase et al., 1991; Orr et al., 1990). At the same time, it was reported that serum Ca levels decreased in spontaneous coccidiosis cases (Karademir et al., 2011a) and during autohemotherapy applications in rabbits (Karademir et al., 2011b). However, in rabbits under fighting stress, it is reported that there is no statistically significant fluctuation in serum Ca level (Karademir, 2017). According to the results of this study, although Ca levels in the poxvirusinfected individuals were slightly higher than in healthy controls, this difference was statistically insignificant.

K is the most important intracellular, Na is the most important extracellular cation (Gür and Demirci, 2000). There are similar studies in the literature investigating various pathological conditions in which K and Na levels were examined. In the study of Chirase et al. (1991) serum K levels were increased in animals infected with infectious bovine rhinotracheitis virus and serum Na level remained stable. It was reported that serum K levels were stable and Na levels were lower in autohemotherapy applied rabbits (Karademir et al., 2011b) and in rabbits with spontaneous coccidiosis (Karademir et al., 2011a) than in the control

group. In another study, the effect of fighting stress on serum mineral levels in rabbits was investigated (Karademir, 2017). In this study, it was reported that there was no statistical difference in serum potassium level, but there was a significant difference between groups in serum Na level. The serum Na level was lower in the beating group compared to the control group. The Na and K findings of this study were similar to our results. In case of stress, mineralocorticoid secretion increases. Urinary excretion of both cations increases with the effect of increasing mineralocorticoid hormone. Potassium in the intracellular fluid replaces the decreasing potassium in the extra cellular fluid. But there is no substitutable source for sodium. Therefore, the serum Na level found decreased in poxvirus infected sheep.

It is well known that, in case of inflammation, body temperature increase and Glutaraldehyde Test (GA) time decrease according to inflammation severity (Karademir, 2006; Karademir et al., 2017; Karademir and Atalan, 2003). In this study, body temperature and GA time data show strong negative correlation (r = -785, P<0.001) and supported the above information (Table 4). However, serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na concentrations showed positive correlation with GA and negative correlation with body temperature. In addition, serum Cu and Ca had positive correlation with body temperature and negative correlation with GA time (Table 4). This proves that in the case of inflammation regarding poxvirus infection serum Cu and Ca levels increased and serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels decreased. The regression analyses equations showing how GA time and rectal body temperature affect serum mineral levels are shown in Table 5. As could be seen from this table, the regression equations obtained for all minerals except Ca and K were statistically significant.

Conclusion

It was observed in this study that serum mineral levels of sheep and their lambs were affected by poxvirus infection except serum Ca and K levels. Actually, serum Ca and K levels of infected subjects were higher than control ones but this difference was not significant statistically. However, there were statistical differences between infected and healthy animal groups. Serum Zn, Fe, Mg and Na levels of infected subjects were lower and Cu levels was higher than control group data.

From the viewpoint of veterinary practice, as a result of this investigation, it was suggested that incomplete mineral additions must be given by orally or parenterally for get rapid and good healing of pox virus infection. On the other hand, as a prevention of this disease, in support of vaccination, if there is any, the above mentioned mineral deficiencies should be eliminated before the infection.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank to Nejeebullah SOOMRO (Lecturer in Faculty of Medicine, The University of Sydney, Australia) for English corrections.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The author has declared no conflict of interest.

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