In vitro effect of antiparasitic drugs on the expression of the genes code receptors: AchR and GABA in Anisakis simplex L3 larvae

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Anisakis simplex is a gastrointestinal parasitic nematode with a complex life cycle; the definitive hosts are marine mammals as well as humans. As anisakiasis is a serious condition that can be fatal to humans and may cause allergic reaction in patients sensitive to A. simplex allergens. There are still no effective vaccines for controlling these infections, it is necessary to intensify research of depending of the levamisole and γ -aminobutyric acid receptors on the parasite's larvae.

The major group for neurotransmitter-gated ion-channel that includes nicotinic acetylcholine receptor, and γ -aminobutyric acid which has been studied as a potential drug targets for nematodes. The nematode nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (nAChRs) on muscle are the target of the cholinergic anthelmintics levamisole; such compounds cause these ligand-gated ion channels to open, leading to prolonged muscle contraction and spastic paralysis of the parasite. IVM, a macrocyclic lactone, is a broad-spectrum anthelmintic, by binding to nematode GABA-gated chloride channels.

The aim of this study was to investigate the expression of genes encoding receptors: nAChRs (*unc29* KM496571; *unc38* KM496570) and GABA (*gaba1* KP640594; *gaba2* KM496572) in the invasive L3 larvae of *A. simplex* and determine *in vitro* (Iglesias i in., 2001) effect of ivermectin, levamisole (6.25; 12.5; 25; 50 μg/ml) on the expression of these mRNA receptors after 3, 6, 12 and 24h. Control wells contained 0.1% DMSO. Isolation total RNA according to the manufacturer's instructions (A&A Biotechnology). RT PCR TranScriba kit (A&A Biotechnology). Quantitative real-time PCR was performed using a SYBRGreen PCR-MIX TaqTM (A&ABiotechnology) on an lightcycler (Applied Biosystem, FAST7500). The data were analyzed and normalized relative to *eef1a1* (KP326558) transcript levels by an AB analysis software (7500v2.0). The mean value±SD was used for analysis of relative transcript levels for each time point using the ΔΔCt method.

The expression of GABA receptors decreased (10-fold) in ivermectin treated larvae was associated with an decreasing drug concentration (6.25 and 12.5 µg/ml) after 6h. The expression of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors (unc29; unc38) increased at higher concentration of ivermectin (25 ad 50 µg/ml) after 12h. GABA and nAChRs receptors could be implicated in the mechanism of action of ivermectin and levamisole in this parasite.