

Effect of Some Medicinal Herbs Versus Nitazoxanide on *Cryptosporidium Parvum* Infected Immunosuppressed Mice.

Abstract

Cryptosporidium is a ubiquitous protozoan parasite causing gastrointestinal disorders in various hosts worldwide. The disease is self-limiting in the immunocompetent but life-threatening in immunodeficient individuals and is one of the commonest causes of persistent diarrhea among children, especially immunosuppressed ones. The study evaluated the potential therapeutic effects of some natural herbal agents versus Nitazoxanide® in treating *Cryptosporidium parvum*. A total of sixty Albino mice were immunosuppressed, divided into 6 groups. Five groups were infected with *C. parvum* oocysts and the remaining group was left as negative control. Four groups were treated with Asafoetida, curcumin, and artemisinin, compared to nitazoxanide, and positive control group infected but not treated. Assessment of treatment by microscopy through counting oocytes in stool, histopathology of ileocecal region and plasma clearance of alpha 1 anti-trypsin by ELISA.

Results showed that Asafoetida, artemisinin, and curcumin eliminated infection in 50, 55, & 55% of treated mice respectively. Nitazoxanide caused elimination of infection in 80% of infections.

المجلة:

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