

Comparative efficacies of closantel, ivermectin, oxfendazole, thiophanate and levamisole against thiabendazole resistant *Haemonchus contortus* in sheep

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Abstract:

Forty-nine sheep artificially exposed to a thiabendazole (TBZ) resistant isolate of *Haemonchus contortus* were assigned to 7 groups of 7 animals each and used to conduct a controlled anthelmintic trial. One group of sheep served as untreated infected controls and 6 groups were treated as follows: closantel, 5.0 mg kg⁻¹; ivermectin, 0.2 mg kg⁻¹; oxfendazole, 5.0 mg kg⁻¹; thiophanate, 50 mg kg⁻¹, levamisole, 7.5 mgkg⁻¹ and thiabendazole, 66 mg kg⁻¹. Eggs per gram of faeces were determined on days 21, 24 and day 34 (10 days post-treatment) after infection and all animals were necropsied for residual worm counts. The calculated efficacies of the treatments against *H. contortus* as indicated by worm reduction were closantel (100%), ivermectin (99.3%), oxfendazole (35.2%), thiophanate (56.7%), levamisole (98.6%) and thiabendazole (24.3%). The data therefore indicate that the TBZ-resistant isolate of *H. contortus* used was highly resistant to the 2 benzimidazole (BZ) anthelmintics, oxfendazole and thiophanate. This is the first report in Kenya of a field strain of *H. contortus* resistant to thiophanate.