

Correlation of Hyperglycemia and Succinate dehydrogenase Activity During Hymenolepiasis in Mice and Treatment With Praziquantel

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ABSTRACT

Energy metabolism is the chief controlling factor of all living organisms, mostly by the breakdown of glucose. The higher energy demands in a traumatized host directly affects levels of glucose and the enzyme activity involved in its ultimate breakdown. The variations in the carbohydrate levels of host *Mus musculus* infected with the intestinal helminth *Hymenolepis nana* and treated with anthelmintic praziquantel, demonstrated histochemically using Periodic acid-schiff reaction, are qualitatively correlated with the corresponding variations of succinate dehydrogenase, a key energy generating enzyme of the Krebs's cycle, visualized by Nitroblue tetrazolium, in the host intestine. These results are also emphasized for the development of prophylactic chemotherapy, especially in the tropical countries, with prevalence of multi-worm infections.

Keywords:- Glucose, hymenolepiasis, Nitroblue tetrazolium, Periodic acid-schiff, succinate dehydrogenase

1. Introduction

Hymenolepis nana, the common intestinal dwarf tapeworm of mouse and man, especially in the tropics and the subtropics[1], is the only known cestode which can be transmitted directly[2-3]. In hymenolepiasis not only the histology of the host gets traumatized[4], but marked alterations in the tissue substrates like the carbohydrates, proteins and lipids and various enzymes related to their metabolism[5] have been reported.

The carbohydrate metabolism of various vertebrate hosts, infected with helminth parasites has been studied by numerous investigators[6-8]. But information on the reflection of carbohydrate metabolism on the Krebs's cycle enzymes in the helminth infected hosts is meager and scattered. Succinate dehydrogenase(SDH) activity has been studied in rat liver infected with *A.ceylanicum* and *N.braziliensis*[9]. The most important activity of SDH is its ability to transfer electrons to the respiratory chain, by catalyzing the formation of fumarate by removal of one hydrogen atom from each α -carbon of succinate. SDH in mammalian tissues has high affinity for succinate oxidation and a low affinity for fumarate reduction[10]. In contrast, SDH in parasitic helminths has high affinity for fumarate than succinate [11-12].

The chemotherapy of parasitic diseases is based on the use of compounds which, in suitable dosage, are more damaging to the invading organism than to the host, inhibiting essential metabolic reactions of the pathogenic organism to a greater degree than those of the host[13].

Hence, in the present investigation, the intestinal carbohydrate metabolism in *Mus musculus* infected with cestode helminth *Hymenolepis nana*, subsequently treated with the broad-spectrum anthelmintic praziquantel is histochemically demonstrated using Periodic acid-schiff(PAS) reagent. SDH enzyme activity of the three batches of host intestine is also visualized through Nitroblue tetrazolium technique. Further, a qualitative and comprehensive analysis of these substrate-enzyme variations is done to effectively elucidate the intricate host-parasite interactions and the efficacy of praziquantel[14] in reprimanding the parasite induced alterations in the traumatized host.

2. Materials and methods

Mus musculus, the murine host was grouped into control, *Hymenolepis nana* infected (about 100 viable eggs per mouse, by oral route) and praziquantel treated (0.2ml suspension at 25 mg/kg body weight, by oral route, on 16th day of infection) batches, maintained under good laboratory practices (GLP) conditions[15]. Adult, 4-5 week old, male hosts weighing 20-25 gm were used, whose intestine was obtained at the terminal stage of experimentation.

For carbohydrate demonstration by Periodic acid-schiff (PAS) reaction, intestine was fixed in 10% formaldehyde which stabilizes the carbohydrates[16-17]. Paraffin blocks were made of the fixed tissues and 6 μ thick sections microtomed, which were then subjected to PAS test for microscopic visualization of the carbohydrates[18]. The periodic acid oxidizes glycols

with vicinal OH groups to two molecules of aldehydes only and no further. These aldehydes are demonstrated by schiff's reagent, which forms intense red addition compounds with the aldehydes thus formed[19]. The carbohydrate content is proportional to the intensity of the colour.

For the enzyme histochemistry of succinate dehydrogenase, unfixed, 5 μ thick cryostat sections were cut at -35 $^{\circ}$ c. In the present work the cryostat used was CRYO-CUT II MICROTOME by Reichert-Jung Company, USA. The dehydrogenases of the tricarboxylic cycle are redemonstrable histochemically by the tetrazolium-formazan reduction reaction[20]. The reduction of the colourless tetrazolium salt, by the hydrogen of the substrate, produces an intensely coloured water-insoluble formazan deposit, which can be seen at the site of enzyme activity[21-23]. The procedure followed in this study is the general histochemical staining method for dehydrogenases[24].

The substrate and enzyme stained intestinal slides of the three host batches were then microphotographed at 40x magnification.

3. Results

The carbohydrate variations in the intestine of the three host batches are visualized with Periodic acid-schiff reagent in Figs. 1a to 1d. They were found to be more in the infected host batch, than the control batch intestine of Fig.1a, evidenced by the intense red colour, as shown in Figs. 1b and 1c. The mechanical trauma inflicted by *Hymenolepis nana* in the host intestine is also seen as the disrupted tissue in the lumen. The proglottides of the worm can be seen as a ladder-like structure in the lumen of host intestine in Fig.1c. Praziquantel treated intestine in Fig.1d shows carbohydrate intensity nearing the control batch, proving its efficacy.

The nitroblue tetrazolium stained succinate dehydrogenase(SDH) enzyme activity is seen as coloured formazan deposits in Figs. 2a to 2c. The SDH activity in control host intestine is shown in Fig.2a. But the enzyme activity is increased in the infected host batch of Fig.2b, seen as deeply stained section. The treated intestine shows SDH activity comparable to the control section, seen in Fig.2c, thereby reiterating its effectiveness in reprimanding hymenolepiasis.

4. Discussion

Glucose metabolism holds a central key position in the intermediary metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins and lipids. Intestine, the habitat of *Hymenolepis nana*, is the maximally affected host tissue, through pronounced degree of injury and trauma by disrupting the villi, leading to altered physiology of the host substrates, enzymes, and hematology[25]. The increase in colour intensity of infected tissue section of host for carbohydrates is proportional to the increased carbohydrate metabolism. Since the damaged tissue demands increased energy requirements, the pronounced hyperglycemia is the result of the stress in the local damage alarming stimulus[26] and altered enzymology. This is achieved through either gluconeogenesis or gluconeogenesis.

The ultimate monosaccharide product of carbohydrate, glucose, is metabolized to yield energy required for the body. Glucose, after a series of reactions through glycolysis to produce pyruvic acid, subsequently enters Kreb's cycle generating reduced nucleotides (NADH and FAD) for generating ATP, through electron transport system. Kreb's cycle provides a source of mitochondrial power for the reduction of fumarate to succinate.

In the present work, it is found that the infected host intestine showed an increase in SDH activity. In helminths the succinate formation is bi-directional (Kreb's cycle and reverse Kreb's cycle) which is excreted by the worm into its surroundings. This excreted helminth succinate could then be absorbed and utilized by the host[27]. The absorbed succinate would then be converted to fumarate to ultimately complete the Kreb's cycle via malate and regeneration of oxaloacetate to yield the increased energy demands of the traumatized host intestinal tissue in combating pathogenesis.

The increased carbohydrates in infected intestine of the host also could lead to the formation of more of pyruvate which as acetyl Co A enters the Kreb's cycle moving in the forward direction through the regular Kreb's cycle; after sufficient succinate is accumulated, the Kreb's cycle would proceed in the forward reaction regenerating the oxaloacetate, thus generating more energy to enable the host to meet its required energy demands during pathogenesis with *H.nana*. Thus, either of the increased interconversions of succinate and fumarate would result in an increased succinate dehydrogenase activity. Hence the present study of these enzymes could be effectively utilized in the future for combating parasitic manifestations, by targeting this particular stage of Kreb's cycle.

The effects of pathogenic parasites in the organisms could be eradicated or minimized by exploiting the chemotherapeutic effects upon the differences in essential pathways of host and parasite. The property of praziquantel in recouping and restoring the physiological processes is of great interest since praziquantel effectively affects the glucose metabolism of the helminth. It specially inhibits glucose uptake by the helminth[28-29]. This means that the whole carbohydrate metabolism as well as Krebs's cycle are definitely targeted in the parasite by the drug. This is clearly evidenced in the present histochemical study, where praziquantel restores normalcy in the altered carbohydrate and SDH contents of the infected host intestine by removing the worm burden, thereby reducing and eliminating all the stimuli and toxins for the increased energy demands of the infected host. Thus praziquantel is highly effective against *Hymenolepis nana* which needs only one host and persists through recurrent autoinfections, thereby traumatizing the host further.

5. Figures

5.1 Fig.1: Periodic acid-schiff (PAS) stained mouse intestine sections for histochemical demonstration of carbohydrates.

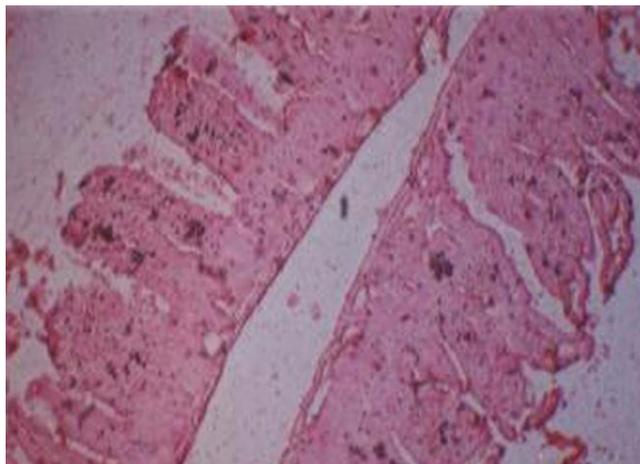


Fig.1a: PAS stained intestine section for carbohydrates, of uninfected control mice showing normal histology.

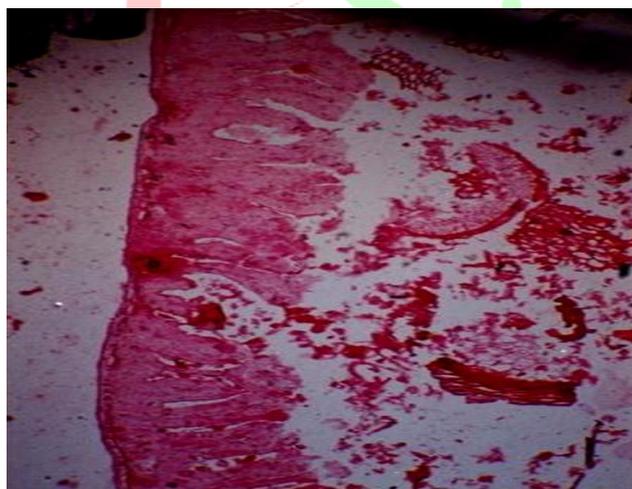


Fig.1b: PAS stained intestine section for carbohydrates, of *Hymenolepis nana* infected mice showing increased carbohydrate content as increased colour intensity. The mechanical damage inflicted by the worm is seen as debris in the lumen

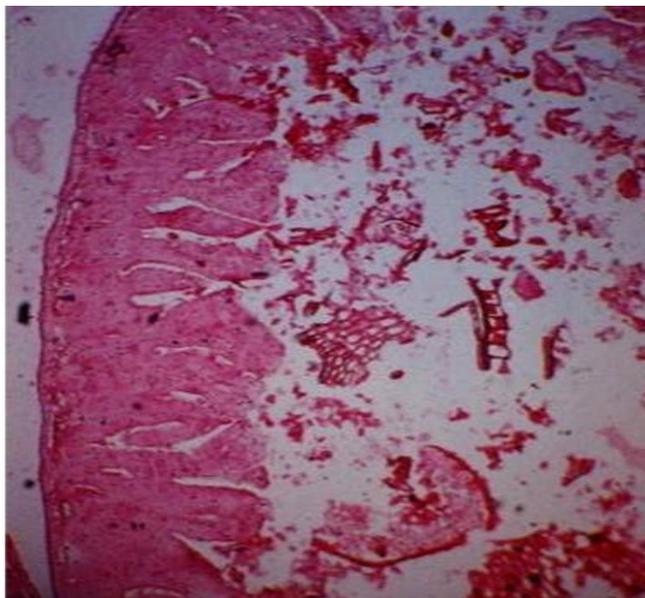


Fig.1c: PAS stained intestine section for carbohydrates, of *Hymenolepis nana* infected mice showing increased carbohydrate content as increased colour intensity. The proglottides of the worm are seen as the ladder-like structure in the lumen.

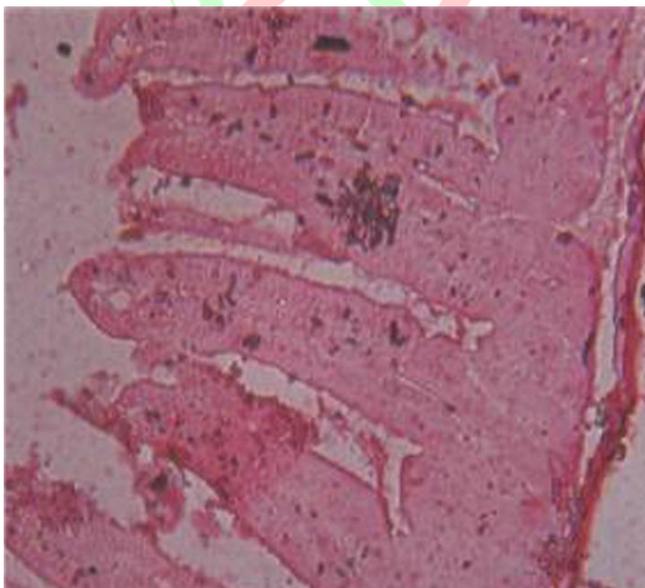


Fig.1d: Periodic acid-schiff stained intestine section for carbohydrates, of Praziquantel treated mice after *H.nana* infection. The carbohydrate content is near the control intestine, evidenced in its decreased colour intensity over the infected section, proving its efficacy.

5.2 Fig.2: Nitroblue tetrazolium stained mouse intestine sections for histochemical demonstration of succinate dehydrogenase enzyme activity.

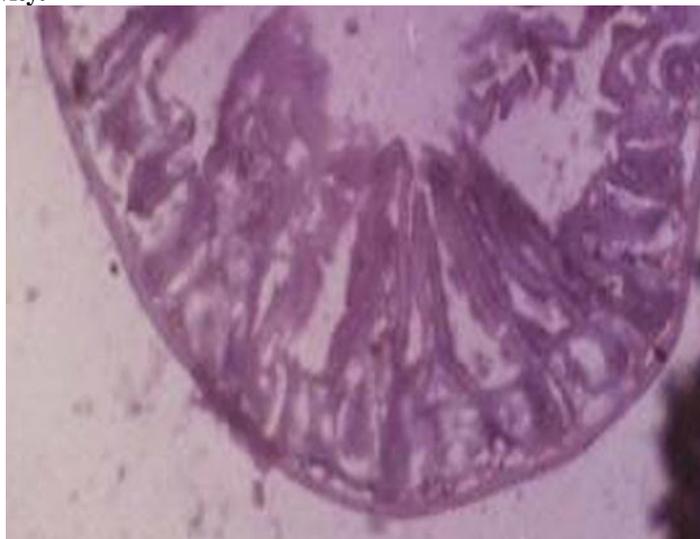


Fig.2a: Nitroblue tetrazolium stained mouse uninfected control intestine section showing succinate dehydrogenase activity.



Fig.2b: Nitroblue tetrazolium stained intestine section of mouse infected with *Hymenolepis nana*, showing increased succinate dehydrogenase activity proportional to the increased colour intensity.

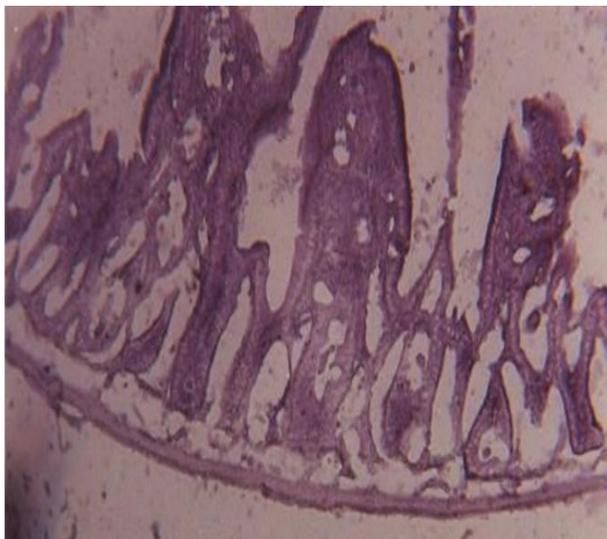


Fig.2c: Nitroblue tetrazolium stained intestine section of praziquantel treated mouse infected with *H.nana*, showing succinate dehydrogenase activity as that of control section.

6. Conclusion

The inferences drawn from the present work may serve as the preamble for further research in combating hymenolepiasis infection for the development of new prophylactic anthelmintics. This is needed because, in the tropics and subtropics, multiple worm infections are common[30-31]. If such periodical measures are observed, the mental and physical growth of the children especially in such colonies can be boosted. Moreover, in these countries, there is a need to develop many such cost-effective, safe, single, low-dosage regimen drugs, which can be administered orally without specific diet requirements[32-33]. The research can still further be extended for the development of vaccines[34].

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