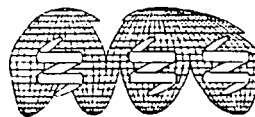




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ABSTRACT BOOK

INTERACTIONS IN INFECTIONS WITH *TRICHINELLA SPIRALIS* AND THE TREMATODA *FASCIOLA HEPATICA* AND *SCHISTOSOMA BOVIS*.

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Interaction, *Trichinella spiralis*, *Fasciola hepatica*, *Schistosoma bovis*.

The influence of *Trichinella spiralis* (Ts) infection on later infections with the trematoda *Fasciola hepatica* (Fh) and *Schistosoma bovis* (Sb), and viceversa, has been studied. In 3 out of the 4 experiments, an enhancing effect, in terms of worm loads, of the first infection over the second one (probably due to immunosuppressive mechanisms) was observed. The experiments involving Ts and Fh were carried out in rabbits, and those with Ts and Sb, in hamsters. An index of enhancement was calculated as follows: $IE = 100 \times (\text{No of parasites in the double infected group} - \text{No of parasites in the single infected group}) / \text{No of parasites in the single infected group}$. Statistical analysis was carried out using the ANOVA test.

Ts+Fh experiments: 6 rabbits were infected with 10000 Ts larvae and 7 weeks later with 30 Fh metacercariae. A control group was only infected with Fh. Differences between both groups were statistically significant ($P < 0.05$), with an IE of 65%. When animals were first infected with Fh and 13 weeks later with Ts, no enhancing effect, but a certain degree of protection (although not statistically significant), was observed.

Ts+Sb experiments: 10 hamsters were infected with 1000 Ts larvae per animal and 6 weeks later with 100 Sb cercariae. 9 weeks after the second infection, animals were killed and worms counted. Differences with respect to control animals (only infected with Sb) were significant ($P = 0.05$), with an IE of 100%.

Infections with Sb followed by Ts, carried out with the same protocol, showed an IE of 850%, with a level of significance of $P < 0.001$.

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