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### AUGMENTATION OF TRICLABENDAZOLE THERAPY WITH HERBAL EXTRACT IN OVINE FASCIOLOSIS

Guesh N<sup>1</sup>, Etsay K<sup>1</sup>, Yohannes T<sup>1</sup>, Endale B<sup>1</sup>, Awet T<sup>1</sup>,  
Kassaw A<sup>1</sup> and Yohannes H<sup>1</sup>

Aga Khan University, Pakistan

Fasciola is a major parasite of sheep around Lake Hashenge that is claimed to cause serious destruction of liver and liver condemnation (more than 80%) which lead to loss of profit/market despite its potential nutritional and price value. Liver infested with fasciola is hard and fibrotic and is not fit for human consumption regardless of its zoonotic potential. Triclabendazole is the drug of choice for treating fasciolosis but triclabendazole have no effect in the healing or regeneration capacity of the already damaged liver by the parasite unless augmented with other natural herbal preparations which make the damaged liver heal faster. Therefore, this project was designed to study the augmentation responses of herbal extract to triclabendazole therapy which was expected to facilitate the regeneration and healing process of the liver of sheep. A total of 12 naturally fasciola infested sheep diagnosed with coprological examination were used in this study. The 12 naturally fasciola infested sheep were grouped into three groups (G1=Experimental, treated with both triclabendazole and the herbal extract bolus; G2=Experimental, treated only with triclabendazole; and G3=Control, not treated with either of the treatments) each containing 4(four) sheep. Herbal bolus were prepared at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Mekelle University and used for augmentation. Three months after the treatment sheep in all the three groups were coprological examined. The effect of augmentation was evaluated with liver function tests, gross pathology and histopathology. All the data were analyzed using STATA version-11.0 statistical software and P-value of 0.05 was considered a statistically significant difference for all analysis. Gross findings showed live fasciola parasite and severe liver damage; irregular shaped and rough fibrotic liver; and liver with slight fibrosis and distended gall bladder in G3, G2 and G1, respectively. Liver function test results were higher in the control group (G3) compared to G1 and G2 (P<0.05). Microscopic findings of the tissue samples revealed liver with very sever necrotized area with diffused extensive fibrosis (cirrhosis) around the section of parasite in the middle; liver

with moderate necrotized area with diffused extensive fibrosis (cirrhosis); and liver with fibrosis (cirrhosis) being degraded and regeneration of hepatocytes around it in G3, G2 and G1, respectively. Augmentation of triclabendazole with herbal extract improves the healing and regeneration capacity of fasciola infested liver and thus it should be encouraged.

### CHANGES IN SEXUAL BEHAVIORS DUE TO THE UTILIZATION OF PREP AS A PREVENTIVE METHOD FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV

Michael Dean Kaltenbach

University of Pennsylvania, USA

According to The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 33.4 million individuals throughout the world have been affected by HIV/AIDS in the last 30 years or so (Bonacquisti & Geller, 2013). The medication, Truvada, otherwise known as PrEP, has been introduced to serve as a harm reduction technique to combat the spread of HIV infection. PrEP is an antiretroviral drug that lowers the risk of HIV exposure. This is a qualitative study examining the sexual behaviors of gay and bisexual men prescribed PrEP as a preventive method for the transmission of HIV. I conducted 30 semi-structured in-depth interviews of people who had been prescribed PrEP for at least 30 days in three cities: Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and New York City. The results indicate that contextual factors shaped the sexual behaviors of participants on PrEP, leading them to lower risk at times, and elevate it at others. PrEP caused individuals to experience changes within their communication patterns with their medical providers and their sexual partners. The results shed light on the way people on PrEP engage in sexual and health-seeking behaviors, and help to develop a blueprint for the way service providers engage with this community.