

Detection and Identification of Tetracycline Residues in Milk By High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and ELISA: -Comparative Study Between The Two Methods-

Latifa Boultif * ¹, Bassem Chebira ¹, Mohamed Cherif¹ Abdeldjelil, Assia Boudebza ¹

¹PADESCA laboratory, Institute of Veterinary Science, University Mentouri of Constantine, Algeria.

Abstract: *The presence of antibiotic residues, particularly in milk, is a subject of concern, due to their known harmful effects: on human health (antimicrobial resistance, allergic problems, etc.); on dairy industry (economic losses); and during bacteriological tests (false negative results). The objective of this study is to identify and quantify oxytetracycline residues in milk, using two analytical methods: ELISA and HPLC, then to compare the two methods. 120 milk samples are analyzed by an indirect competitive ELISA. To quantify residues, a calibration curve is established using standards. Positive samples revealed by ELISA are then analyzed by HPLC, whose analysis parameters and extraction method have been fixed previously. Oxytetracycline concentrations obtained by the two methods are compared using Student's t-test. The ELISA analysis reveals 36 samples containing tetracyclines at concentration levels of 5 to 74 µg / L. While only 22 samples containing oxytetracycline were revealed by HPLC at concentrations levels of 7,74 to 76,24 µg / L. Statistical comparison between concentrations revealed by the two analytical methods, shows no significant difference (p-value of 0,01 and 0,05). However, when samples are taken one by one; in most cases (68%), the values provided by HPLC analysis are slightly higher than those obtained by ELISA. HPLC is an extremely sensitive method which can quantify antimicrobial residues at the nanogram scale. On the other hand, the ELISA assay is a specific method because it allows to characterize the molecule to be assayed. ELISA is also less expensive than HPLC, but visibly of diminished sensitivity.*

Key words: *Tetracycline, Antibiotics Residues, Milk, ELISA, HPLC.*

1. Introduction and objective:

The presence of antibiotic residues, particularly in milk, is a subject of concern, due to their known harmful effects: on human health (antimicrobial resistance, allergic problems, etc.) (Châtaigner and Stevens, 2005; Leroy and Fanir, 2005; Sanders, 2005; Guy et al., 2004) on dairy industry (economic losses); and during bacteriological tests (false negative results) (Form, 2003; Brouillet, 2002; Maghuin-Rogister et al., 2001). Tetracycline is one of the most widely used molecules in rural livestock production, particularly for the treatment of respiratory, genital and podal diseases (Van Boeckela et al., 2015; Desalegne, 2011; Sarmah et al., 2006; Furusawa, 2003). It is also a molecule commonly excreted in milk (Zahid Hosen et al., 2010). It is thus, very likely to be found, as antibiotic residues in milk, one of the foods, of animal origin, the most consumed in Algeria, because it represents the main source of protein of animal origin.

The objective of this study is to identify and quantify oxytetracycline residues in milk, using two analytical methods: ELISA and HPLC, then to compare the two methods.

2. Material and methods

120 milk samples are analysed by an indirect competitive ELISA. To quantify residues, a calibration curve is established using standards,. Positive samples revealed by ELISA are then analysed by HPLC, whose analysis parameters and extraction method have been fixed previously.

Oxytetracycline concentrations obtained by the two methods are compared using Student's t-test.

3. Results and Discussion

The ELISA analysis reveals 36 samples containing tetracyclines at concentration levels of 5 to 74 $\mu\text{g} / \text{L}$. While only 22 samples containing oxytetracycline were revealed by HPLC at concentrations levels of 7,74 to 76,24 $\mu\text{g} / \text{L}$ (table n°1). Statistical comparison between concentrations revealed by the two analytical methods, shows no significant difference (p-value of 0,01 and 0,05). However, when samples are taken one by one; in most cases (68%), the values provided by HPLC analysis are slightly higher than those obtained by ELISA.

TABLE I: comparison of the values obtained by HPLC analysis and those obtained by ELISA for the quantification of oxytetracycline ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$)

échantillons	HPLC	ELISA	Moyenne	Ecart-type	variance
A6	25,42	22	23,71	2,41	5,84
A8	22,25	20	21,125	1,59	2,53
H2	26,74	25	25,87	1,23	1,51
H3	45,98	42	43,99	2,81	7,92
J3	7,74	5,3	6,52	1,725	2,97
J8	64,34	65	64,67	0,46	0,21
J10	14,72	18	16,36	2,31	5,37
D8	22,07	15	18,53	4,99	24,99
E1	42,09	45	43,54	2,05	4,23
E5	29,86	25	27,43	3,43	11,80
E6	52,09	46	49,04	4,30	18,54
F1	35,83	30	32,915	4,12	16,99
F2	20,97	22	21,48	0,72	0,53
F4	44,13	40	42,06	2,92	8,52
F6	35,44	40	37,72	3,22	10,39
F7	50,86	52	51,43	0,80	0,64
F8	62,53	60	61,26	1,78	3,20
F9	15,85	12	13,92	2,72	7,41
G5	17,76	18	17,88	0,16	0,02
G6	76,24	74	75,12	1,58	2,50
G9	31,46	30	30,73	1,03	1,06
G10	17,44	15	16,22	1,72	2,97
t = 0,74					

We noticed a similarity between our working method and that of other researchers. Thus in 2012, Kamberi and Sulaj first used ELISA as a qualitative detection method, then HPLC for the quantification

of oxytetracycline. Out of 161 samples, 5 are positive, and only 2 (1.4%) exceed the MRL at values equal to 290 µg/L and 1600 µg/L.

4. Conclusion

HPLC is an extremely sensitive method which can quantify antimicrobial residues at the nanogram scale. On the other hand, the ELISA assay is a specific method because it allows to characterize the molecule to be assayed. ELISA is also less expensive than HPLC, but visibly of diminished sensitivity.

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