


Reliability of Veterinarians routine Cattle meat inspection tool on Specific identification of Cysticerci in bovine muscle tissue

Joseph Rutaganira¹ rutaganirajoseph@yahoo.com  0000-0001-5939-8365Igor Glamazdin¹ glamazdin@ya.ru  0000-0001-7119-906X¹ Russian Biotechnological University, Talalikhina, 33, Moscow, 109029, Russia

Abstract. *Cysticercus bovis* and macroscopic Sarcocysts detected from bovine carcasses look similar and specific identification of each of these cysts is important for addressing proper preventive, and control measures of tCysticercosis and Sarcocystosis diseases. Therefore, it is sometimes a challenge for Vets to distinguish these two species of parasites during their daily routine meat inspection using traditional methods. Cysticerci and Sarcocysts are responsible of Bovine Cysticercosis and Cattle Sarcocystosis respectively. These Veterinarians can sometimes make errors in identification of these two parasitic species from Cattle meat muscle tissues. The study was conducted from Abattoir in Russian Federation with intention of the problem addressed confirmation. During laboratory experimental examination, it was confirmed that out of 20 cattle muscles tissues tested to contain cysticerci parasites, 5 out of them were Sarcocysts. Therefore, it is obvious for veterinarians to make errors during their routine cattle meat inspection due to the morphological behaviour of these organisms

Keywords: cestode parasites, *cysticercus bovis*, foodborne parasites, protozoa, *sarcocystis* spp. *taenia saginata*.

Introduction

Bovine cysticercosis is a Cattle disease caused by the intermediate (larval) stage of *Taenia Saginata* called *Cysticercus bovis*. *Taenia Saginata* (Macrelli et al., 2020) is the human beef tapeworm (El-Sayad et al., 2021). *Cysticercus bovis* parasitizes the intermuscular connective tissue of striated muscles. Bovine cysticercosis has been reported in Russia, Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, etc. (Uchendu et al., 2021).

Bovine sarcocystosis is either zoonotic or not and it is caused by single-celled protozoa, *Sarcocystis* Species including: *S. hominis*, *S. heydorni*, *S. cruzi*, *S. rommeli*, *S. hirsuta* and *S. bovis*. Sarcocystosis has a worldwide distribution, especially where livestock are raised (Rosenthal, 2021). The pathogen forms a tissue cyst inside the muscle fiber of the striated muscle. The presence of macroscopic sarcocysts can cause cattle meat culling. Microscopically, the cysts are divided by *septa* into chambers that contain thousands of banana-shaped bradyzoites. Sarcocystosis, cause significant economic losses, including death and forced slaughter of animals, loss of offspring, and a decrease in the quality and nutritional value of meat. In the Russian Federation, sarcocystosis is registered in 85 % of cattle and sheep, 5 % of pigs, 35 % of horses (Novak and Novak, 2020). This disease of many animal species is widespread in many countries (Fayer et al., 2015).

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Bovine cysticercosis (Assefa and Bihon, 2019), is caused by *cysticercus bovis*, larval form, which is hosted in Cattle muscle tissues but humans have risk of hosting the adult form of this cestode parasite “*Taenia Saginata*” in the small intestine (Lopes et al., 2011), when they eat poorly heat-treated beef (Leal Filho et al., 2022). Despite the fact that *Cysticercosis* and *Sarcocystosis* are caused by completely different types of parasites, they may have negative effect on Cattle as well on Humans (Dubey, 2015). From *Cysticercus* and *Sarcocystis* spp, Figure 1 illustrates all possible steps and sources of negative effects faced by humans and Cattle.

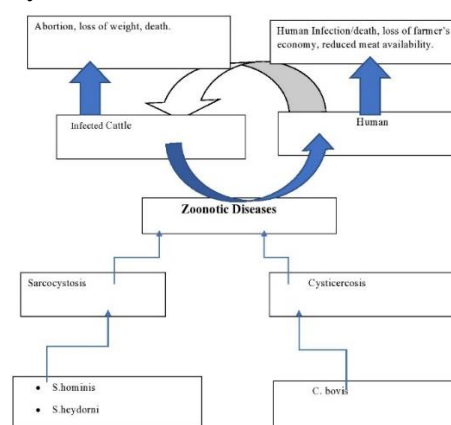


Figure 1. Flow Chart showing the effect of cysticercosis and Sarcocystosis on Infected Cattle as well as on Humans. Sarcocysts and Cysticerci identified in the bovine muscle tissues are all responsible of zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted between cattle

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Objective

The objective is to conduct morphological study of the 20 bovine meat samples reported by Vets to host only cysticerci and identify if Sarcocysts may be misnamed Cysticerci. The extracted information may also reveal tentative prevalence of these two species in Russian Federation

Material and methods

According to the informations given from food markets and Auchan stores chain in Russia, the meat tested by vets during their routine examination were collected from 875 infected slaughtered cattle carcasses (Ahmed et al., 2016) in Russian Federation and 20 were tested *cysterci* positive. These 20 cases that were reported to be infected by *Cystercus bovis* were objects of our Laboratory study. The 20 samples were in total bovine meat muscle tissues putatively infected by cysticerci parasites. During Laboratory examination, tissue cysts were allocated layer-by-layer cutting of the muscles, followed by examination of the internal content. The cysts were cut with a razor blade. necessary smears-prints were made, fixed and stained according to Romanovsky-Giemsa, microscopied.

15 cases were found to be muscle inclusions of gray color, oval shape and length from 1.5 to 2.0 cm. Covered by the connective tissue capsule of the host. After dissection of each of the 15 host capsules, a translucent oval-shaped bubble of about 1.0 cm in length, containing a transparent liquid was found inside. This was real *cysticercus bovis*. On the inner shell of the *cysticercus* there was a scolex, in which no hooks were found under microscopy.

5 cases were observed to be light gray in color, oval in shape, and were about 1.5 cm long. When the host capsule was cut with a razor blade, a clear or slightly cloudy liquid was found inside the cyst. In these cases, a smear was made on the slide and painted according to Romanovsky-Giemsa. Under microscopy with magnification of X400 or X800, banana-shaped structures were observed. This fact indicated that the studied cysts were formed by *Sarcocysts*.

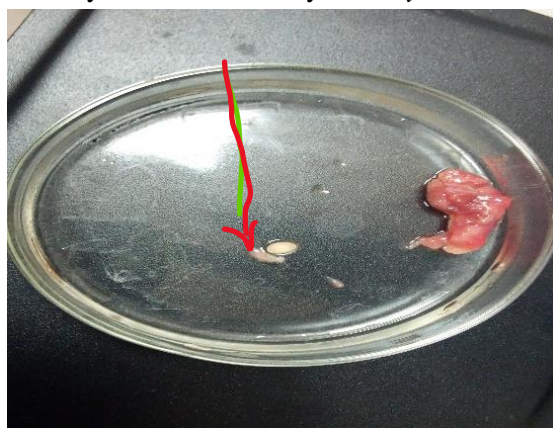


Figure 2. Cyst isolated from bovine meat before observation under microscopy

Results and discussion

On the basis of Study examination results illustrated by Figure 2, the morphological study of 20 samples that were reported by Veterinarians to host only *cysterci*, we found several inconsistencies. 15 cases were found to be real *cysticerci larvae*. According to our observations, the banana-like structures (endozoites) that were found preserved inside of each of the 50 cysts with different forms of liquid content (transparent, cloudy, different consistency), indicated that these **5 cases**, were *Sarcocysts*.

Thus, a thorough study of 20 carcasses that were reported positive for *C. bovis* during routine veterinary examination revealed errors in 25 % of cases.

Table 1.

Results from Microscopy examination with a sample size of 20 cases reported putatively to be cysticerci only.s

S/N	Cyst name	Number Of Cases found
1	Cysticercus bovis	15
2	Cattle Sarcocyst	5
Sample size		20

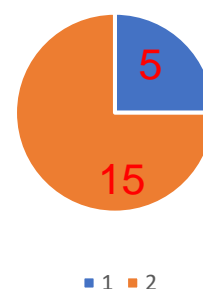


Figure 3. Illustration of the results found after thorough microcopy examination determine 15 cysticerci and 5 Sarcocysts

Conclusion

Cysticercosis and Sarcocystosis diseases are threat to cattle as well to human beings. These infections can be responsible of loss of weight, abortion and death of bovines and consequently cause loss of farmer's economy, and reduced meat which are served to human as important food. Furthermore, due to the ability of these diseases to be transmitted to human they are known to threaten human health owing to infection in Cattle. Therefore, specific identification of cysticerci from sarcocysts will help in proper threatment of the above-mentioned diseases.

The identification of *Cysticercus bovis* from Sarcocystis spp. In routine apparent meat inspection by Veterinarians is not trustworthy. Out of **20 cases** reported by Veterinarians to host putatively only cysticerci it was found that **5 cases** of them were Sarcocysts. Thus, the error was found to be **25 %**. These data are not enough to confirm whether it can be taken as a serious issue in Russian

Federation but it is indication of not relying on meat inspection data. Meat inspection should be used as preliminary screening tool for cysticerci. For more thorough researches with molecular methods for specific *Cystercicus bovis* and *Sarcocystis* spp. identification are recommended.



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Information about authors

Joseph Rutaganira PhD candidate, veterinary medicine department, Russian Biotechnological University, Talalikhina, 33, Moscow, 109029, Russia, rutaganirajoseph@yahoo.com
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5939-8365>
Igor Glamazdin Dr. Sci. (Vet.), professor, veterinary medicine department, Russian Biotechnological University, Talalikhina, 33, Moscow, 109029, Russia, glamazdin@ya.ru
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7119-906X>

Contribution

wrote the manuscript, correct it before filing in editing and is responsible for plagiarism consultation during the study

Conflict of interest


The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Надежность рутинного инструмента ветеринарных врачей для контроля мяса крупного рогатого скота по специфической идентификации цистицерков в мышечной ткани


Аннотация. Цистицерки и макроскопические саркоцисты, обнаруженные в тушах крупного рогатого скота, выглядят одинаково, и специфическая идентификация каждой из этих цист важна для принятия надлежащих мер профилактики и борьбы с цистицеркозом и саркоцистозом. Поэтому для ветеринарных врачей иногда представляет трудность различать эти два вида паразитов при ежедневном осмотре мяса традиционными методами. Цистицерки и саркоцисты ответственны за цистицеркоз крупного рогатого скота и саркоцистоз крупного рогатого скота соответственно. Ветеринары иногда допускают ошибки при идентификации этих двух видов паразитов в мышечных тканях мяса крупного рогатого скота. Исследование проводилось на скотобойне в Российской Федерации с целью подтверждения актуальности проблемы. В ходе лабораторно-экспериментального исследования было установлено, что из 20 исследованных мышечных тканей крупного рогатого скота, содержащих паразитов цистицерков, 5 из них оказались саркоцистами. Таким образом, очевидна возможность ошибок ветеринарных врачей при проведении рутинного осмотра мяса крупного рогатого скота, связанных с морфологическим поведением этих организмов

Ключевые слова: цестодные паразиты, *cysticercus bovis*, паразиты пищевого происхождения, простейшие, *sarcocystis* spp. *taenia saginata*.

Джозеф Рутаганира аспирант, кафедра ветеринарной медицины, Российский биотехнологический университет, ул. Талалихина, 33, Москва, 109029, Россия, rutaganirajoseph@yahoo.com

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5939-8365>

Игорь Гламаздин д.вет.н., профессор, кафедра ветеринарной медицины, Российский биотехнологический университет, ул. Талалихина, 33, Москва, 109029, Россия, glamazdin@ya.ru

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7119-906X>