

MONEPANTEL EFFICACY TO CONTROL GASTROINTESTINAL STRONGYLID PARASITES IN SHEEP

*(EFICÁCIA DO MONEPANTEL PARA CONTROLE DE ESTRONGILÍDEOS PARASITOS
GASTRINTESTINAIS DE OVINOS)*

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The anthelmintic resistance is a major challenge for the control of endoparasites in small ruminants. The recent launch of Monepantel may represent an alternative for the treatment of helminthiasis, associated with other control tools. This study aims to test the effectiveness of Monepantel in a flock of sheep with a history of resistance to macrocyclic lactones and benzimidazoles in Uberlândia, MG. We used twenty sheep whose individual counts of eggs per gram of feces (EPG), according to the Gordon and Witlock methodology, were above 200. These animals were divided into a group treated with Monepantel 2.5 mg/kg orally (n = 10) and a control group (n = 10). On day zero, the sheep were weighed, dewormer was administered and feces were collected for determination of EPG. Subsequent fecal samplings were carried out 7 and 14 days after treatment. The percentage of EPG reduction (R%) was given by the difference between the average EPG of the treated group before and after treatment while efficacy percentage (E%) was the difference between the average post-treatment and control groups. The values of R% were 98.44% and 98.99% while E% values were 96.79% and 98.65%, respectively, for 7 and 14 days, indicating the effectiveness of the active principle over gastrointestinal strongyles parasites. In the stool cultures of the control group, the following larvae were recovered *Haemonchus* sp. (86%), *Trichostrongylus* sp. (12%) and *Oesophagostomum* sp. (2%). After treatment with Monepantel, 48 larvae of *Oesophagostomum* sp. (N = 100%) were recovered from the stool cultures. These results indicate the effectiveness of the active principle to treat *Haemonchus* sp. and *Trichostrongylus* sp., the genus more commonly reported as anthelmintic resistant in Brazil. However, despite being a new molecule with no history of use in animals from this flock, Monepantel was not efficient to treat *Oesophagostomum* sp. Thus, it is suggested that this active principle should be associated with other broad-spectrum drugs to treat flocks with high prevalence of *Oesophagostomum* spp.

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