

BABESIOSIS CABALLI IN ONE-HUMPED DROMEDARIES OF BASRAH PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Babesiosis caballi infection were detected in one-humped camels in Basrah province. The study were conducted on 38 dromedaries , 3-6 years old of both sexes infected with *Babesia caballi*. reared in AL-zubair district of Basrah , Iraq. Infection with *Babesia caballi* were diagnosed on the basis of Giemsa stained blood smears . Ten clinically healthy camels were served as controls. Results showed that clinically infected camels show signs of loss of appetite , paleness of mucus membranes, emaciation, rough hair coat, lacrimation and diarrhea, on the other hand some diseased camels were suffer from hemoglobinurea, coughing and ticks were detected on different body regions. Statistically significant increase were encountered in body temperature, respiratory and heart rates in diseased camels compared to controls. *Babesia caballi* trophozoites found oval or elliptical with pear-shaped merozoites occurring mostly in pairs inside the erythrocytes and parasitemia ranged between (5-8%), Moreover there was significant reduction in the mean values of TRBc, Hb, PCV, However macrocytic normochromic type of anemia were indicated. Results also indicated significant increase in total leukocytes count and lymphocytes. Data concerning the indices of clotting factors of normal controls and *Babesia caballi* infected camels indicated significant decrease in total platelets count ,However mean platelets volume ,platelets distribution width, clotting time, Prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time were significantly increased in diseased camels compared to controls ,Furthermore Fibrinogen were decreased in diseased camels. It have been concluded that *Babeesia caballi* could infect camels causes economic loss, therefore all suspected animals reared in AL zuber district should be screened.

INTRODUCTION

Camels is an important multi purpose animals in arid and semi-arid areas of the world, could be infected with different infectious diseases, since knowledge of diseases that affected camels and how to treated and prevented them as well as general health monitoring remains limited in camels world (1,2).

Camels babesiosis were an acute, or chronic infectious disease, distributed over most of the world specially in camel grazing areas (3).The disease were responsible for deteriorates effects, high morbidity rate and high remarkable and economic losses, caused by the tick-borne hemo-parasitic protozoan (4).

In dromedaries specially one humped camels the disease mostly caused by *Babesia caballi* and *Babesia equi*,(5), since susceptibility of the disease does not appear to altered with age, sex and animal species (6). The disease were also call piroplasmosis and endemic in most tropical and subtropical parts of the world, this