Code: 598 - Title: THE RECOMBINANT PEPTIDE rsbm7462T INDUCES PROTECTION AGAINST Rhipicephalus microplus INFESTATION ALONG WITH DIFFERENCIAL EXPRESSION OF ACUTE PHASE PROTEINS AND COMPLEMENT FACTORS

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Rhipicephalus microplus tick is an important ectoparasite of livestock. Many laboratories in the world focus their effort in developing an efficient vaccine for tick control. It is noteworthy that tick saliva components can also trigger acute phase proteins response (APP) and block early proteins of classical and alternative pathways of the complement system, modulating its host immunity and influencing on vaccine efficacy. Since many APP and complement factors are related to tick resistance, we aimed to associate its gene expression with the efficacy of a vaccine based on a recombinant peptide expressed in Pichia pastoris. For this issue, we used 12 Holstein bovines aging from 6 to 10 months divided in two groups, one immunized with the peptide rsbm7462T and the other inoculated only with the supernatant of P. pastoris. For both groups three doses were administered with 30 days of interval. These animals were challenged with R. microplus larvae infestation and liver biopsies were collected. The RNA of hepatic biopsies were extracted and its quality evaluated by Bioanalyzer assays (Agilent). The RNA of hepatic tissues was reverse transcripted to cDNA and used for evaluate the gene expression of complement protein 3 (C3), complement protein 5 (C5), mannose binding lectin (MBL), haptoglobin (HP), serum amyloid A (SAA) and alpha-1 acid glycoprotein (AGP) taking Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) as a reference gene. The vaccinated group presented less engorged female tick counts and larvae hatching than the control ones (P<0,05; Turkey's Test). The results showed that C5, C3, AGP and HP genes were down regulated after vaccination and challenge with tick larvae infestation ($P \le 0.05$, Student's t test). These results suggest that the successful vaccination with the recombinant peptide rsbm7462T promotes inflammation control by AGP and HP down regulation. These molecules may reduce the damage triggered by larvae fixation to the host skin due increasing secretion of antiinflammatory cytokines and interference with coagulation cascade impairing tick engorgement. The protective state in vaccinated animals is also related to an up regulation of SAA (P < 0.05, Student's t test) which may be involved with leucocytes chemotaxis to the site of larvae attachment, up regulation of interferon-γ (IFN-γ) by T lymphocytes and oxidative burst response in neutrophils, which are all related to tick resistance.

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