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85. HAEMOSTATIC ALTERATIONS IN INFECTED MALNOURISHED MICE: EFFECT OF NASAL TREATMENT WITH *Lactobacillus casei*

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The aim of this work was to evaluate the preventive effect of different doses of *Lactobacillus casei* (Lc) intranasally administered on haemostatic alterations induced by a septic process in malnourished mice. Malnourished mice (MN) received a balanced diet (BD) or BD for 7d with intranasal addition of different doses of Lc during the last 2d (BD+Lc10⁷, BD+Lc10⁸, BD+Lc10⁹ cells/d/mice). Experimental, MN and well-nourished (WN) groups were infected with *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Malnourishment altered serum total proteins (TP) and haemostatic parameters. Renutrition with Lc improved them without significant ($p < 0.05$) differences between doses. After infection, the pathogen was detected in lung and blood. Mice treated with Lc had negative hemocultures and lower bacterial counts at 240 h post infection (hpi) while BD+Lc10⁹ showed significantly lower counts in lung. The infection altered Prothrombin Time, Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time, Fibrinogen, Platelet counts and TP in all groups. MN showed the greatest changes. Renutrition with Lc had beneficial effects, BD+Lc10⁹ showed a better behavior (TP_{12hpi} WN= 59.70±2.88 g/L; MN= 40.00±2.88; BD= 53.80±2.16; BD+Lc10⁷= 46.20±1.70; BD+Lc10⁸= 43.00±1.67; BD+Lc10⁹= 62.10±2.69). Intranasal addition of 10⁹ cells/d/mice of Lc was the most effective dose to favor pathogen clearance and recover some haemostatic parameters.

86. SUBCLINICAL HYPOTHYROIDISM IN POSTMENOPAUSAL WOMEN

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Thyroid disorders are common in women and increase with each decade of life. The most frequent form is subclinical hypothyroidism with high levels of TSH and normal thyroid hormones. **Objective.** To determine the prevalence of subclinical hypothyroidism in menopausal women and its relationship with body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference (WC). **Materials and Methods.** In 140 menopausal women without thyroid disease we determined height, weight, WC (cm) and BMI (weight/height²). The women were stratified according to 1) TSH (mIU/L) groups I) ≤4.05, II) >4.05; 2) BMI and WC groups I) Normal BMI (N) ≤25 and WC ≤ 88, II) BMI N and WC >88, III) Overweight BMI (OW) or obese (O) >25 and WC ≤88 and IV) BMI OW or O and WC >88. TSH was determined by IRMA, RV 0.17 to 4.05 mIU/L. **Results.** Univariate: 82% (115) with TSH ≤4.05; 71% had BMI>25 and WC>88. 89% were 60 years old at most. Bivariate: we found $p=0.008$ between the proportions of patients with different levels of BMI, WC and age for TSH ≤4.05. **Conclusion.** The proportion of subclinical hypothyroidism found (18%) was lower than that reported in the literature without statistically significant differences with respect to WC and BMI. Differences were observed in those women with TSH ≤4.05, with different levels of BMI, WC and age. We propose performing routine TSH screenings to menopausal women to prevent metabolic and others diseases.

87. HISTOPATHOLOGY OF LIVER AND KIDNEY IN RATS AFTER ORAL CADMIUM ADMINISTRATION AT LOW DOSES

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This work evaluates the early toxicity signs in the liver and kidney of rats treated with cadmium (Cd²⁺). Wistar rats were intoxicated with 10mg CdCl₂/kg and sacrificed on weeks 4, 8 and 12. Samples were processed with histological techniques, stained with haematoxylin-eosin, PAS and Masson and Perls trichromic stain. Up to 4 weeks, controls and Cd²⁺ treated animals showed preserved histological characteristics in kidney and liver. After 8 weeks of treatment in liver can be observed dilatation of the central vein, sinusoidal congestion, Kupffer cells hypertrophy, steatosis and central perivenous fibrosis. Renal parenchyma showed vascular congestion of glomeruli, proximal convoluted tubules (PCT) with flattened epithelial cells and PAS+ material in the luminal space. In some tubular epithelial cells cytoplasmic degeneration and loss of limits were noticed. On the 12th week of treatment, the liver showed marked dilatation and congestion of the central vein and swollen hepatocytes. No iron deposits were evinced with Perls technique. The kidney showed hydropic degeneration and eosinophilic cytoplasm of the epithelial cells of PCT. Focal fibrosis of medium caliber vessels, marked glomerular capillary congestion and slight congestion at the renal medulla. The results demonstrate that the first histopathological signs appeared on the 8th week of treatment with 10 mg/kg Cd²⁺.

88. HISTOLOGY OF THE EPIDIDYMIS OF *Chinchilla lanigera* GREY

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Chinchilla lanigera has a low reproductive rate in captivity. Males have ± 30% of idiopathic infertility, which may reflect a dysfunction in sperm maturation. The study of epididymal function is important to evaluate the sperm function. There have been reports for other species of the correlation between the epididymal epithelium and changes undergone by the sperm and the influences of the intraluminal medium. The aim of this work was to study the histomorphology of the epididymis of *Chinchilla*. Epididymal samples were obtained from sexually mature males and fixed at 4°C in buffered formalin and routine histological techniques were performed. The seminiferous duct is surrounded by connective tissue, highly vascular, and with smooth muscle layers. The epithelium is pseudostratified, with principal cells (P), basal (B), clear, apical and halo cells. P cells are columnar with stereocilia, and vary in height along the duct. B cells have no contact with the lumen. In the epithelium intense secretory activity: apocrine secretion can be observed. The results show a similar histomorphology to that described for other mammalian species. The existence of intense secretory activity clearly demonstrates the role of the epithelium in the process of sperm maturation, suggesting that alterations in epididymal function could be the cause of unexplained infertility in this species.