

QUANTITY AND FATTY ACID COMPOSITION OF VARIOUS FAT DEPOTS IN CASTRATED AND NONCASTRATED HOGGETS FED CLENBUTEROL

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SUMMARY:

A trial has been conducted on male castrated and noncastrated hoggets fed diets containing energy and protein - 4.1 MJ and 130 g per kg of feed, respectively. The effect of long-term treating (6 months) with clenbuterol (1 (1 mg/kg diet) on quantity and fatty acid composition of lipids from different adipose tissues (perirenal, tail, breast, intermuscular and caul) has been studied. A decrease of lipid amount was established in adipose tissues in treated (castrated and noncastrated) animals compared to control groups. Clenbuterol leads to some changes in the size of adipocytes and fatty acid composition of adipose tissue triacylglycerols. Changes observed are associated with physiological state of animals and localisation of fat depots.

INTRODUCTION

B-agonists are established to decrease lipid deposition, regardless of animal species (WILLIAMS, 1987). Lipid content decrease, however, correlates not always to the changes of fat layer thickness. Contradictory also are the results about the effect of B-agonists on adipocyte size. Increasing the relative part of adipocytes of less diameter does not correspond to the constancy in quantity of subcutaneous adipose tissue, established in cattle (SCHIAVETTA et al., 1990). Changes in adipose cell size in lambs (COLEMAN et al., 1988) and HU et al., (1988) or cattle (MILLER et al., 1988) are different in various fat depots. Studies of HU et al., (1988) and THORNTON et al., (1985) show that clenbuterol and cimaterol increase unsaturation of lipid from subcutaneous adipose tissue in sheep. It is also established that the effect of clenbuterol on fatty acid composition also depends on the type of fat depots (BANSKALIEVA et al., 1991). It is unknown, however, to what extent fatty acid profile corresponds to quantitative changes of lipids in depots, or of adipose cells, which also determined the results of our studies. In this connection, the effect of long-term treating with clenbuterol has been studied in both castrated and noncastrated hoggets on both the content, adipocyte size and fatty acid composition of lipids from fat depots of different anatomical localisation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two experiments on male noncastrated and castrated hoggets have been conducted. At starting the experiment, animals were 10 months old, 42 - 46 kg of live weight, divided in a control and two experimental groups for each experiment. Duration of experimental period was 6 months, animals being under the same rearing condition and received diet, containing 4.1 MJ energy and 130 g protein per 1 kg of diet. Experimental animals also received daily group of clenbuterol per kg of mixture. At the end of the experiment, 4 animals of each group were slaughtered. Hoggets of the second experimental group were slaughtered one week later, receiving no clenbuterol in this time.

Fresh perirenal, subcutaneous (around the tail), intermuscular (under semimembranosus), breast (over 5-6th vertebra) adipose tissues and caul were obtained at slaughtering. After 24h at 2°C, carcasses were divided into two parts by a transverse cut at 12 rib. Fat depths were measured at tail-base, at 5-6th vertebra of breast bone and forelast rib. The total subcutaneous fat was removed and was weighted, as well as the caul and perirenal adipose tissue.

The lipids of tissues were extracted thrice with CHCL₃/MEOH (1:1;v/v). Fatty acid composition of triacylglycerols was analysed by gas chromatography, using a glass column packed with 3% SP 2330 on Supelcoport (100-200 mesh).

For determining the size of adipocytes, samples of 1 cm³ were taken, of which transverse cuts of 16 mm thickness were prepared. Coloration of adipocytes was made with Sudan III, and their mean diameter was determined in 3-5 visual field on 100 cells. The Student test was used as a criterion for statistical evaluation of results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results presented in table 1 show that in castrated animals deposited subcutaneous fat both that in caul is by 70% more, compared to noncastrated. No differences exist between various types of animals, concerning the thickness of subcutaneous adipose tissue, measured in value in topographic areas. Only in the area around the tail in noncastrated animals higher subcutaneous fat is more irregular.

To the increased subcutaneous fat content in castrated animals, also correspond relatively more cells of greater diameter (figure 1). In intermuscular adipose tissue, maximum of curve in castrated animals is also removed to righter, while in perirenal adipose tissue, differences between castrated and uncastrated animals are minimum.

According to saturation extent TG of different fat depots (both in noncastrated and castrated animals) the following rank exists: breast adipose tissue, subcutaneous

adipose tissue, intermuscular adipose tissue, perirenal adipose tissue and caul. Analogical result has also been established in lambs (BANSKALIEVA et al., 1991). No differences have been observed between castrated and noncastrated animals.

Clenbuterol treatment has confirmed the effect of β -agonists (became already classic) on deposition of reserve lipids. Regardless of the type of animals (castrated or not) a decrease was established both in lipid content of various fat depots and in thickness of subcutaneous adipose tissue (table 1). This result differs from data of SCHIAVETTA et al., (1990) for cattle. The effect of clenbuterol has been established and depend both on anatomical localisation of depots and on physiological condition of animals (table 1). In noncastrated animals caul weight decreases drastically (over 50%), compared to other depots. In castrated animals - contrariwise: such an effect is observed for subcutaneous adipose tissue. Changes in perirenal adipose tissue are between 25-20 % for I and II experiments, respectively. Similar are data of SCHIAVETTA et al., (1990) and BANSKALIEVA et al., (1991), while COLEMAN et al., (1985) find no effect of clenbuterol on perirenal adipose tissue. Clenbuterol leads to decreasing the thickness of subcutaneous adipose tissue, but at significantly greater extent in noncastrated animals.

In general, it is to notice that reduced lipid content in fat depots of experimental animals is accompanied by decreasing of diameter in adipocytes and increasing of the relative part of adipose cells of less diameter (figure 1). Analogical results have also been obtained in other investigation on sheep and cattle (MILLER et al., 1988, HU et al., 1988, SCHIAVETTA et al., 1990). Decreasing the fat or thickness of adipose layer is most likely conditioned by changes in the size of adipose cells. Similar to changes in reserve lipids (table 1) the effect of clenbuterol on the size of adipose cell depends on physiological condition and is different for various fat depots. To the sharp decrease in subcutaneous adipose tissue in castrated hoggets (compared to noncastrated) corresponds a more significant increase of relative part of cells of less diameter. Analogical is the result for intermuscular adipose tissue. On the contrary, in perirenal adipose tissue (where changes in fats are less) the effect of clenbuterol is more clearly marked in noncastrated animals. Data of SCHIAVETTA et al., (1990) and MILLER et al., (1988) also point out a dependence between the effect of clenbuterol and anatomical localisation of adipose depots. Results about fatty acid composition (table 2) show that different results in tissues react in different way to clenbuterol treatment. With the exception of results of our previous study in lambs (BANSKALIEVA et al., 1991) other investigations about β -agonists effect on lipid composition of various fat depots have not been made.

Clenbuterol treatment leads to no changes in fatty acid composition of triacylglycerols of both breast and perirenal adipose tissue in experimental animals (table 2). An increase of total unsaturation of subcutaneous adipose tissue and intermuscular adipose tissue and caul was established in noncastrated animals, conditioned by increasing of oleic acid and decrease of stearic one. Increasing unsaturation of lipids from subcutaneous adipose tissue was also established in investigations on both lambs and sheep (BANSKALIEVA et al., 1991, HU et al., 1988, THORNTON et al., 1985). In present experiments no significant changes have been observed in relative amount of 16:0, regardless of localisation of depots, not yet of physiological condition of hoggets. According to the result, data obtained differ from established ones in lambs fed high-concentrated diet (BANSKALIEVA et al., 1991) as well as data of THORNTON et al., (1985), HU et al., (1988). Palmitic acid content is in a certain extent indicator for fatty acid synthesis - exerts effect in that process. In investigations of sheep COLEMAN et al., (1985) also found effect of clenbuterol on lipogenesis adipose tissue.

β -agonists probably do not change fatty acid synthesis de novo (EADARA et al., 1988) and rather exert influence on acylation of fatty acids in adipose tissue triacylglycerols and deposition of more reserve fats, respectively. Our data also show that reduced lipid content in studied lipid depots is not accompanied by respective changes in fatty acid composition. The cause of this effect is not yet known. In general, results about fatty acid composition (table 2), as well as those of plasma free fatty acids (unpublished data) do not suppose stimulation of lipolysis in adipose tissue after treatment with β -agonists. No correspondance was observed between changes in the size of adipocytes in different fat depots and their fatty acid composition (figure 1, table 2). Increasing of relative part of cells of less diameter in subcutaneous adipose tissue and intermuscular adipose tissue for castrated animals is not accompanied by changes in fatty acid composition. Results obtained show that between both quantity and thickness of adipose layer, on the one hand, and mean diameter of adipocytes on the other hand, no relations exists (table 1, figure 1).

At a week withdrawal period clenbuterol effect decreases in different extent in different parameters studied. Animals of experimental groups begin to depose reserve fats in uncastrated animals and even surpassing the quantity of subcutaneous adipose layer, however, were not observed (table 1). In general, a decrease of relative part of cells of less diameter is observed, regardless of depot and state of animals (figure 1). Changes in fatty acid composition of some cases are directed to control animals, in other such ones were observed (table 2).

Results obtained show that clenbuterol exerts in different way effect on different processes in organism of animals, the exact mechanism of their influence being not yet known.

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Table 1. Carcass Variables

Variable	Groups	Noncastrated Hoggets			Castrated Hoggets		
		C	E1	E2	C	E1	E2
Total subcutaneous adipose tissue wt, g							
Caul wt, g		503 ± 13 ^a	430 ± 42	540 ± 23	858 ± 14 ^{b,1,2}	473 ± 39 ^{4,2}	673 ± 11 ⁴
Perirenal adipose tissue wt, g (PAT)		274 ± 56 ^{a,1}	118 ± 20 ²	158 ± 15 ^{1,2}	477 ± 7 ^{b,1,7}	396 ± 8 ^{4,7}	255 ± 21 ⁴
Fat thickness, cm: tail-base		119 ± 16	103 ± 14	90 ± 8	141 ± 15	115 ± 26	142 ± 27
forelast rib of breast bone		0.54 ± 0.08 ^{a,1}	0.31 ± 0.06 ^{1,2}	0.23 ± 0.05 ²	0.38 ± 0.03 ^b	0.32 ± 0.08	0.17 ± 0.06
5-6th vertebra		0.23 ± 0.05 ¹	0.12 ± 0.07 ⁴	0.19 ± 0.01 ^{2,4}	0.21 ± 0.05 ¹	0.19 ± 0.03 ⁴	0.15 ± 0.03 ^{1,2}
Caul: moisture (%)		0.52 ± 0.02 ¹	0.28 ± 0.01 ⁴	0.26 ± 0.09 ^{2,4}	0.51 ± 0.01 ¹	0.32 ± 0.02 ⁴	0.63 ± 0.06 ^{1,2}
fat (%)		8.1 ± 1.5 ¹	20.7 ± 7.1 ⁴	29.5 ± 1.5 ⁴	6.1 ± 1.9 ¹	13.7 ± 1.6 ^{2,3}	17.3 ± 1.9 ³
PAT: moisture (%)		81.9 ± 3.4 ¹	73.9 ± 8.2 ¹	72.6 ± 0.9 ^{1,2}	84.2 ± 2.6 ¹	81.6 ± 5.6 ⁴	76.5 ± 2.1 ⁴
fat (%)		8.2 ± 0.1 ^{1,2}	23.2 ± 1.2 ^{4,2}	18.1 ± 0.6 ⁴	6.6 ± 0.3 ¹	17.1 ± 1.4 ⁴	18.8 ± 1.1 ⁴
control group; E1, E2 - experimental groups; If the smallest possible difference between superscripts (D) is: D=1, P<0.05, D=2, P<0.01, D=3, P<0.01; a,b-significant differences between control groups.		80.8 ± 1.1 ¹	69.8 ± 0.3 ⁴	73.3 ± 1.1 ³	82.1 ± 2.2 ¹	73.2 ± 1.7 ^{2,3}	71.9 ± 0.8 ³

Table 2. Fatty Acid Composition of Triacylglycerols of Various Adipose Tissues of Hoggets

Adipose Tissues Groups	Breast			Subcutaneous			Intermuscular			Perirenal			Caul			
	C	E1	E2	C	E1	E2	C	E1	E2	C	E1	E2	C	E1		
	Fatty acids															
					N	O	N	C	A	S	T	R	A	T	E	D
16:0	25.2	25.8	24.5	24.3	24.2	25.2	23.4	24.9	23.0	23.3	21.2	22.9	24.4	23.3	1	1
16:1	6.1	6.8	5.9	2.8	3.3	2.8	2.1	2.8	3.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	1	1
18:0	12.0	11.1	11.4	24.8	20.2	22.6	30.1	24.0	21.7	32.7	35.9	31.0	31.1	30.4	1	1
18:1	50.4	50.1	51.0	42.2	47.3	42.6	38.5	42.6	44.8	36.1	35.6	38.5	35.5	39.6	1	1
18:2	6.2	6.0	7.4	5.8	4.9	7.1	5.8	5.7	7.2	5.6	4.8	5.2	6.1	4.3	1	1
TUFA:	63.6	62.9	64.3	50.8	55.5	50.5	46.4	51.1	55.2	43.9	44.6	46.1	44.3	46.6	1	1
					C	A	S	T	R	A	T	E	D			
16:0	24.5	24.9	24.6	26.0	23.7	25.1	25.1	25.4	24.7	22.5	22.1	23.8	25.5	24.2	1	1
16:1	7.2	4.6	5.8	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.7	1	1
18:0	10.1	14.4	10.8	24.2	27.8	23.8	26.4	24.4	28.0	32.6	33.3	35.2	31.2	31.9	1	1
18:1	52.9	51.1	52.6	42.9	40.5	41.7	41.7	43.1	39.0	38.0	36.6	36.0	35.2	36.7	1	1
18:2	5.2	4.9	6.2	3.7	4.7	6.2	4.4	4.3	5.9	4.5	5.3	5.9	5.3	4.5	1	1
TUFA:	65.3	60.6	64.6	49.7	48.2	51.1	48.5	50.1	47.2	44.9	44.6	44.5	43.3	43.9	1	1

C - control group; E1,E2 - experimental groups; TUFA - total unsaturated fatty acids; smallest possible difference between superscripts (D) is: D = 1, P < 0.05; D = 2, P < 0.01.

Fig.1. Adipocyte diameter distribution of subcutaneous (I), perirenal (II) and intermuscular (III) adipose tissues.

