

Original Research Article

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Effect of Choline Chloride on *in vitro* Rumen Fermentation of Oat Hay based TMR's Varying in Energy Levels

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ABSTRACT

Present study was conducted to see the effect of different levels (0, 50, 75 and 100 ppm of concentrate) of choline chloride on *in vitro* fermentation process with rations of different energy content. Two rations were prepared having different energy levels (1.26 Mcal/kg NE_L and 1.50 Mcal/kg NE_L) and both these rations were supplemented with different levels (0, 50, 75 and 100 ppm of concentrate) of choline chloride to see the effect of choline. No significant effect of either choline supplementation at different levels was found on any *in vitro* parameter as compared to control diets with either low or high energy content of ration. On comparison of *in vitro* results obtained by supplementation of choline chloride irrespective of the level of supplemented choline chloride with low and high energy diets, significant differences in various parameters were obtained at 5% level of significance. NGP, ME, OMD, %OMD, TD and short chain fatty acids were significantly higher for high energy diet (P<0.05) whereas MMP and EMMP were found significantly higher for low energy diet. These results lead to the conclusions that choline does not have any significant role on rumen fermentation process.

Keywords

Choline, Rumen fermentation, *in vitro* gas production

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Introduction

There are reports (Dyer *et al.*, 1966 and Swingle and Dyer, 1970) which suggest that choline in unprotected form has favorable effect on rumen fermentation. Feedstuffs for dairy cattle contain free choline and phosphatidylcholine but content of these compounds in plants is relatively small and their ruminal degradation is extensive (Sharma and Erdman, 1989) so their intestinal supply is not enough to meet tissue requirements for dairy cows. Mean estimates

of rumen degradable choline (%) were 79.4, 84.7, 82.9, 83.8, 98.0, and 98.6 for barley, cottonseed meal, fish meal, soybean meal, choline stearate, and choline chloride respectively (Sharma and Erdman, 1989). Microbial populations in the rumen quickly degrade rationally choline; therefore practical means of increasing choline to the periparturient dairy cows is to feed it in a rumen-protected form (Atkins *et al.*, 1988). Erdman and Sharma (1991) told that rumen protected choline used is very less degraded by rumen microbes and remains stable for

maximum availability in the intestine of animal. Mohsen *et al.*, (2011) did not find any change in ruminal fermentation on supplementation of ration with RPC at 15 or 30g/day. The objective of this study was to see effect of different levels of choline in unprotected form or in the form of Rumen Protected Choline (RPC) on *in vitro* fermentation process when supplemented with low (1.26 Mcal/kg NE_L) as well as high (1.50 Mcal/kg NE_L) energy levels of ration.

Materials and Methods

In this study two rations were prepared which were isonitrogenous but different in their net energy of lactation (NE_L) content. One ration was having low (1.26Mcal/kg NE_L) content while other was having high (1.50Mcal/kg NE_L) content. Different concentrations of choline and Rumen Protected Choline (RPC) used in various experiments were 0, 500, 750 and 1000mg per 100g of concentrate or equivalent to 0, 50, 75, and 100ppm of concentrate. Composition of the two rations was:

Two rations of different energy levels were supplemented with different concentrations (0, 50, 75, and 100ppm of concentrate) of choline in 1st experiment and with different concentrations of bypass choline in 2nd experiment. In 3rd experiment different concentrations of either choline or RPC were supplemented with same low energy level of the ration and in 4th experiment different concentrations of either choline or RPC were supplemented with same high energy level of the ration.

In vitro gas production technique

The *in vitro* gas production was done according to Menke and Steingass (1988). The amount of gas produced was used to calculate the ME (Metabolizable energy)

value. NDF of the residue was also determined. Total degradable sample(TDS), Organic matter degradability (OMD), Partition factor (PF), % Organic matter degradability (% OMD), % Neutral detergent fibre degradability (% NDFD), Microbial mass production (MMP), Efficiency of microbial mass production (EMMP), True digestibility (TD) and Short chain fatty acids were calculated according to formulae suggested by (Makkar, 2003). Crude Protein Degradability (CPD) was estimated according to method suggested by Raab *et al.*, (1983). Volatile fatty acids (VFAs) were estimated using Gas Liquid Chromatography (GLC) technique.

Data were analysed using SPSS software by applying statistical designs including one-way ANOVA and Paired t-test at 5% level of significance.

Results and Discussion

When choline was supplemented in unprotected form at different levels (0, 50, 75 and 100)ppm with only low energy diet, no significant difference was observed at 5% level of significance in any parameter except PF (P>0.05). PF value was significantly higher (P<0.05) at 75ppm level than 100ppm level and values at other two levels (0, 50)ppm were similar to PF values at both these levels. We may conclude from this result that 75ppm level of choline chloride is more suitable for utilisation of low energy feed by the animal than higher level. But none of the three level used for choline chloride showed significant difference from control with respect to PF or any other parameter which shows no significant effect of different levels of choline chloride with low energy diet on rumen fermentation process.

When choline at different levels (0, 50, 75, 100) ppm was supplemented along with high

energy diet in *in vitro* experiment, no significant difference ($P>0.05$) was observed in any parameter at 5% level of significance. However non significant differences were there and PF, MMP and EMMP values were found maximum for diet supplemented with 100ppm choline. These results show that there is no significant effect of different levels of choline chloride on rumen fermentation process with high energy levels of diet though there may be some non significant increase in the feed utilization at 100 ppm level of choline.

For choline chloride supplemented in different concentrations (0, 500, 750 or 1000) mg/100g (or 0, 50, 75 and 100)ppm of concentrate and irrespective of the energy level of diet, no significant difference was found for any of the above measured parameters during *in vitro* study. These results contradict any significant role of choline for rumen microbes as suggested by some scientists (Dyer *et al.*, 1966, Sharma and Erdman 1988). Although non significant

changes were there in NGP, %NDFD, OMD, TD which first increases with choline addition and then decreases at higher choline concentration. EMMP in all the treatment diets was non significantly less than control that avoids any role of choline for microbial growth in the rumen. PF was although maximum for 75ppm level of choline however at lower or higher levels it is less than control that does not lead to any conclusion. All these results (from Table 1, 2 and 3) suggest that there is no significant effect of choline chloride on rumen fermentation process. These results are in agreement to Rumsey (1985) who found no effect of choline supplementation on rumen fermentation parameters like VFAs, Rumen pH, ammonia and lactic acid isomer changes on all concentrate ration. However these results are in contradiction to the results found in some previous studies (Dyer *et al.*, 1966, Sharma and Erdman 1988) where it was suggested that choline improves microbial performance in rumen.

Table.1 Composition of TMR's used in experiment

Ingredients	Low Energy	High Energy
Oat Hay	40	50
Wheat Straw	20	--
Maize	6	19
Soya bean Meal	10.5	10
Mustard Cake	5.5	3.5
Cotton seed Meal	6	2.5
D.O.R.B.	10.5	13.5
M.M.	0.5	0.5
Salt	1	1
Chemical Composition, % DM basis		
CP	16.067	16.003
NDF	29.6	23.1
ADF	36.9	30.3
EE	1.833	4.033
ASH	10.01	9.96
Estimated ME, Mcal/Kg	1.26	1.50

Table.2 Results of *in vitro* experiment for diets supplemented with different levels of choline chloride with low energy level (1.26 Mcal/kg) of diet

Parameter	Control	50 ppm	75 ppm	100 ppm
NGP(ml)	74.58±2.48	72.92±0.93	74.75±0.76	74.75±1.32
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	8.16 ±0.17	8.018±0.08	8.214±0.08	8.19±0.15
TDS (mg)	329.37±2.328	329.67±1.05	327.34±1.01	328.79±2.78
OMD (mg)	234.21 ± 0.51	238.39±6.69	246.21±0.87	230.97±6.12
PF(mg/ml)	3.24 ±0.07 ^{ab}	3.24± 0.04 ^{ab}	3.33±0.001 ^a	3.04±0.05 ^b
OMD (%)	71.37 ± 0.91	72.16±2.31	75.02±0.07	70.74±1.31
NDFD (%)	57.78±1.35	58.95 ± 3.41	63.16±0.10	56.85±1.93
MMP (mg)	165.29 ±3.97	169.25±2.41	162.889 ± 2.53	164.34±5.11
EMMP (%)	72.27 ± 0.24	70.87±3.69	67.18±0.11	68.99±1.41
TD (%)	72.75±1.17	73.85±1.75	76.46±0.46	72.04±1.69
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.61± 0.05	1.57±0.02	1.62±0.02	1.62±0.03

Different superscripts in row vary significantly at 5% level of significance

Table.3 Results of *in vitro* experiment for diets supplemented with different levels of choline chloride with high energy level (1.50 Mcal/kg) of diet

Parameter2	Control	50 ppm	75 ppm	100 ppm
NGP(ml)	82.25±1.00	82.25±1.32	83.08±0.17	80.08±1.36
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	9.31±0.13	9.34±0.09	9.40±0.05	9.07±0.12
TDS (mg)	327.92±2.54	326.76±1.16	327.05±2.10	331.12±0.77
OMD (mg)	269.46±5.12	270.84±0.25	271.09±2.88	272.20±2.37
PF(mg/ml)	3.32±0.06	3.29±0.09	3.27±0.03	3.46±0.01
OMD (%)	81.66±0.90	82.74±0.37	83.27±1.56	82.06±0.50
NDFD (%)	65.34±1.71	67.39±0.69	68.40±2.94	66.11±0.94
MMP (mg)	146.97±4.50	145.81±1.85	144.26±2.23	154.94±3.52
EMMP (%)	56.12±0.09	53.85±1.23	52.76±1.73	58.22±0.55
TD (%)	82.80±0.93	83.74±0.71	83.93±1.75	82.37±0.57
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.78±0.02	1.78±0.03	1.80±0.01	1.74±0.03

Table.4 Results of in vitro experiment for diets supplemented with different levels of choline chloride, irrespective of the energy level of diet

Parameter	Control	50 ppm	75 ppm	100 ppm
NGP(ml)	78.42±2.09	77.58±2.21	78.92±1.90	77.42±3.59
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	8.74±0.28	8.68±0.30	8.81±0.27	8.63±0.21
TDS (mg)	328.65±1.57	328.21±0.96	327.19±1.04	329.96±1.39
OMD (mg)	251.83±10.39	254.62±9.76	258.65±7.29	251.58±12.20
PF(mg/ml)	3.28±0.05	3.26±0.04	3.30±0.02	3.25±0.12
OMD (%)	76.51±3.11	77.45±3.20	79.15±2.47	76.40±3.32
NDFD (%)	61.56±2.36	63.17±2.82	65.78±1.93	61.48±2.81
MMP (mg)	156.13±4.90	157.53±5.42	153.58±4.43	159.64±3.48
EMMP (%)	64.19±4.66	62.36±5.16	59.97±4.22	63.06±3.17
TD (%)	77.77±2.96	78.79±2.96	80.20±2.28	77.21±3.07
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.70±0.05	1.68±0.05	1.71±0.04	1.68±0.03

Table.5 Comparison of high and low energy diets supplemented with choline chloride in vitro for various parameters irrespective of the level of supplemented choline chloride

Parameter	Low energy diet	High energy diet
NGP(ml)	74.25±0.69 ^a	81.91±0.57 ^b
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	8.14±0.06 ^a	9.28±0.06 ^b
TDS (mg)	328.79 ± 0.88	328.21±0.92
OMD (mg)	237.45±0.76 ^a	270.90±1.25 ^b
PF(mg/ml)	3.21±0.04	3.33±0.04
OMD (%)	72.32±0.82 ^a	82.43±0.43 ^b
NDFD (%)	59.19±1.20	66.81±0.81
MMP (mg)	165.83±1.72 ^b	148.00±0 1.85 ^a
EMMP (%)	69.83±1.04 ^b	55.24±0.90 ^a
TD (%)	73.78±0.82 ^a	83.21±0.48 ^b
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.61±0.02 ^a	1.78±0.01 ^b

Different superscripts in row vary significantly at 5% level of significance

Table.6 Results of *in vitro* experiment for diets supplemented with different levels of choline chloride with low energy level (1.26 Mcal/kg) of diet

Parameter	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
NGP(ml)	74.58±2.48	72.917±0.93	74.75±0.76	74.75±1.32
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	8.16±0.17	8.0178±0.08	8.21±0.08	8.188±147
TDS (mg)	329.37±2.32	329.67±1.05	327.34±1.01	328.79±2.78
OMD (mg)	234.21±0.51	238.39±6.69	246.21±0.87	230.97±6.12
PF(mg/ml)	3.24±0.07 ^{ab}	3.24±0.04 ^{ab}	3.33±0.01 ^a	3.04±0.051 ^b
OMD (%)	71.37±0.91	72.16±2.31	75.02±0.07	70.74±1.31
NDFD (%)	57.78±1.35	58.95±3.41	63.16±0.10	56.85±1.93
MMP (mg)	165.29±3.97	169.25±2.41	162.89±2.53	164.34±5.11
EMMP (%)	72.269±0.24	70.87± 3.69	67.18±0.11	68.99±1.41
TD (%)	72.75±1.17	73.85±1.75	76.46±0.46	72.04±1.695
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.61±0.05	1.58±0.02	1.62±0.02	1.62±0.03

Table.7 *In vitro* parameters for high Energy diet supplemented with choline irrespective of the level of supplemented Choline

Parameter	Control	With Choline Chloride
NGP(ml)	76.50± 1.78	73.75±1.43
ME (MJ/kg of DM)	8.82±0.14	8.64±0.11
TDS (mg)	329.09±0.43	330.50±4.55
OMD (mg)	268.33±1.79	268.04±1.62
PF(mg/ml)	3.50±0.08	3.58±0.095
OMD (%)	81.60±0.64	81.71±0.33
NDFD (%)	65.21±1.22	65.42±0.63
MMP (mg)	159.71±5.16	163.15±3.98
EMMP (%)	59.58±2.42	60.86±1.36
TD (%)	82.20±0.34	82.21±0.36
Short chain FA (mmol)	1.66±0.06	1.62±0.04

On comparison of *in vitro* results obtained by supplementation of choline chloride irrespective of the level of supplemented choline chloride with low and high energy diets, significant differences in various parameters were obtained at 5% level of significance. NGP, ME, OMD, %OMD, TD and short chain fatty acids were significantly higher for high energy diet ($P < 0.05$) whereas MMP and EMMP were found significantly higher for low energy diet. These results show more proportion of highly

degradable substances and less fibre content in high energy diet (Makkar, 2003).

No significant difference was there for any of the above measured parameters between high energy diets supplemented with choline at 5% level of significance ($P > 0.05$). However PF, MMP and EMMP were found non significantly higher for choline chloride supplemented diets than control diets that shows some beneficial effect of Choline chloride on microbial

performance for high energy diets ($P > 0.05$) (Table 4–7).

From all these in vitro experiments we may conclude that choline supplementation does not affect rumen fermentation process significantly with either low energy or high energy levels of ration. As it was suggested in many experiments previously (Atkins *et al.*, 1988; Sharma and Erdman 1989) that choline chloride in unprotected form is quickly degraded to a very high extent, so there is no use to supplement choline in unprotected form in the diet of dairy cows.

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